Foreign Broadcast Information Service 50 ANNIVERSARY 1941 — 1991

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-120
Friday
21 June 1991

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-91-120 21 June 1991

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Abu-al-Nasr Cited on Freeze With Israel *[Jeddah 'UKAZ 14 Jun]* 1
Musa: Israel's Levi To Visit 'Soon' *[AFP]* 1
Musa Comments on Israeli 'Rejection' of Peace *[MENA]* 1
Mubarak-Husayn Summit Reportedly Being Arranged *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Musa Denies Ties With GCC 'Lukewarm' *[MENA]* 2
Cairo Turns Down Membership in Maghreb Union *[Manama WAKH]* 2
'Amr Musa Interviewed on Arab Relations
[London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI 14 Jun] 2
Country To Receive Grant From Arab Fund *[MENA]* 3

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Attends Congress Closing Session *[Tripoli Radio]* 3
General People's Congress Issues Resolutions *[JANA]* 3

Mauritania

Information Minister Outlines Draft Constitution *[Nouakchott Radio]* 7
New Draft Constitution Made Public *[Paris International]* 8
Government Says UTM Strike Order Illegal *[Nouakchott Radio]* 8
First General Strike Under Way *[Paris International]* 8
General Strike Order Reportedly Fails *[AFP]* 9

Sudan

Al-Bashir Begins Preparing for Talks With Rebels *[SUNA]* 9
Foreign Minister Confirms Contacts With Garang *[Amman Radio]* 9
Delegation Leaves for Europe To Discuss Refugees *[SUNA]* 9
RCC Member Briefs Media on Refugee Situation *[Omdurman Radio]* 10
Relocation of Ethiopian Refugees Under Way *[SUNA]* 10
Radio Says Rebel SPLA Facing Difficulties *[Omdurman Radio]* 10
Egyptian Paper Reports on Protest Demonstrations *[Cairo AL-WAFD 16 Jun]* 10

Western Sahara

Polisario To Meet, Elect Leader 11
Polisario To Begin Congress *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Polisario Leader Opens Congress *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Polisario Reelects Secretary General *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Polisario Congress Concludes *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Moroccan Daily Slams Polisario Congress *[MAP]* 12

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Lebanon's Buwayz Praises Results of Visit *[London KUNA]* 13
Prime Minister Departs for Britain *[Radio Kuwait]* 13

Defense Minister Leaves Abu Dhabi for Doha *[Radio Kuwait]* 13
Courts Pass More Death Sentences 20 Jun *[London KUNA]* 13
Further Details on 20 Jun Death Sentences *[AFP]* 14
Two Palestinians Sentenced to Death *[AFP]* 14

Saudi Arabia

Iranians on Hajj Plan To Protest U.S. Troops *[Dakar PANA]* 14

Yemen

Official Denies Reports on Transfer of Jews *[Amman Radio]* 14

IRAQ

Kurdish Officials Cable Congratulations to Saddam *[INA]* 16
Schwarzkopf Statements on War Objectives Protested *[INA]* 16
Ramadan Says No Legality for 'Economic Siege' *[Amman SAWT AL-SHAB 15 Jun]* 16
Memo to UN Protests U.S. Aircraft Violations *[Baghdad Radio]* 17
Iranian Cease-Fire 'Violations' Reported to UN *[INA]* 17
Iraqi Officers Reportedly Killed in Coup Attempt *[Beirut AL-SAFIR 19 Jun]* 17
Clandestine Reports Two Army Commanders Executed *[Voice of Iraqi Opposition]* 17
Bodies of 50 Resistance Men Said Dumped in Tigris *[Voice of Iraqi Opposition]* 17
Freed British Engineer Departs Amman for Home *[AFP]* 18

ISRAEL

Shamir Adviser on Chances for Loan Guarantees *[Tel Aviv TV]* 19
Netanyahu: No Commitment Made to Halt Settlement *[THE JERUSALEM POST 21 Jun]* 20
Arens Adviser Rejects DAVAR Report on Baker *[GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE]* 20
Levi Urges Flexibility on Conference *[AL HAMISHMAR 21 Jun]* 20
Soviets Offer MiG-31's After Full Relations *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Arens Doubts Israel Will Purchase Soviet Arms *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21

JORDAN

Al-Masri Chairs First Meeting, Lists Priorities *[Amman TV]* 22
Daily Profiles New Cabinet Members *[JORDAN TIMES 20 Jun]* 22
Analysts on New Cabinet Formation *[JORDAN TIMES 20-21 Jun]* 23
Increase in Annual Trade With Iraq Discussed *[AL-RAY 20 Jun]* 24

LEBANON

Buwayz on Palestinians, Resolution 425, Syria *[Beirut Radio]* 25
SLA Comments on Army Deployment in South *[Jerusalem Radio]* 25
Lahd Denies Willingness To Hand Over Jazzin *[RFL]* 25
PLO Reportedly Agrees To Partial Withdrawal *[Beirut Radio]* 25
PLO, SLA Withdrawal From Jazzin Linked *[VOL]* 26
Army Deployment, Weapons Hand-Over Postponed *[RFL]* 26
PLO Representative on Army Deployment in Sidon *[VOM]* 27
Violent Clashes East of Sidon; City Shelled *[VOM]* 27
Islamic Resistance Destroys Lahd Position *[VOM]* 27
'Arafat Backers Reportedly Detain FRC Members *[VOL]* 27
Paper Notes 'Optimism' on Hostage Release *[TEHRAN TIMES 12 Jun]* 28
Hostage Release Atmosphere Reportedly 'Suitable' *[VOL]* 28
Official Reveals Attempted Hostage 'Swap' *[Voice of the People]* 28

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Najibullah Calls on U.S. To Rehabilitate Country *[AFP]* 29
Vice President Receives SSR Delegation *[BAKHTAR]* 29
Protocol of Cooperation Signed *[BAKHTAR]* 30

India

Elections Postponed in 'Trouble-Torn' Punjab 30
Date for Election Set for September *[Delhi Radio]* 30
Shekhar Criticizes Poll Delay *[Delhi Radio]* 30
Rao To Become Leader of Congress-I Party 30
MP's Asked to Support Rao *[Delhi Radio]* 30
Rao Formally Elected *[Delhi Radio]* 31
Rao To Be Sworn in *[Delhi Radio]* 31
Rao Asked To Establish Majority *[Delhi Radio]* 31
Congress-I Falls Short of Absolute Majority *[Delhi Radio]* 31
BJP Decides Not To Support Congress-I *[Delhi Radio]* 31
BJP Secures Absolute Majority in State Assembly *[Delhi Radio]* 31
Prime Minister Shekar Addresses Nation *[Delhi Radio]* 32
Demonstrators Want End to Pakistan Interference *[Delhi Radio]* 32
Continuing Coverage on Lok Sabha Election 32
Update on Election *[Delhi Radio]* 32
Tenth Lok Sabha 'Duly Constituted' *[Delhi Radio]* 32
BJP To Initiate Dialogue on Shrine Issue *[Delhi Radio]* 32
Jayalalita Formally Elected AIADMK Leader *[Delhi Radio]* 33
Eight Killed in West Bengal Post-Poll Violence *[Delhi Radio]* 33

Iran

Mohtashemi Opposes Open Policy *[Paris LE MONDE 20 Jun]* 33
Final Installment of Khamene'i Hajj Message *[Tehran Radio]* 34
TEHRAN TIMES' Views on Hostages Decried *[ABRAR 15 Jun]* 37
Goals Behind U.S. Arms Control Proposal Viewed *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL]* 38
* RESALAT Reports 23 Apr Majles Session *[RESALAT 24 Apr]* 38
Reportage on Va'ezi Visit to France *[cross-reference]* 42

Nepal

Nepali Congress, Communists Bidding for Posts *[AFP]* 42

Pakistan

Bomb Blast in Train Kills 5, Injures 30 *[AFP]* 42
Eight Said Killed, 17 Injured in Border Firing *[AFP]* 42
Opposition Protests as Sindh Arrests Continue *[Islamabad Radio]* 42
Sharif Stresses Restoration of Law, Order *[Islamabad Radio]* 43

Sri Lanka

Rebel Stronghold Captured by Security Forces *[LANKAPUVATH]* 43
'Powerful Blast' Rocks Colombo *[AFP]* 44
Car Bomb Explosion Damages Military Headquarters *[AFP]* 44
About 50 Killed, 200 Injured in Bomb Explosion *[AFP]* 44
Suicide Bomber Driver Believed To Be LTTE *[LANKAPUVATH]* 44

Egypt

Abu-al-Nasr Cited on Freeze With Israel

PM1806154291 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 14 Jun 91 p 5

[Ahmad Rajab report: "Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Confirms To 'UKAZ: All Agreements With Israel Are Frozen and Visits Suspended"]

[Excerpt] Cairo—In an exclusive statement to 'UKAZ, Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Mahmud Abu-al-Nasr said that the coolness in Egyptian-Israeli relations is not the result of just this current phase of maximum Israeli intransigence on the peace process. He confirmed that the agreements concluded with Israel are indeed frozen.

Ambassador Abu-al-Nasr said that the facts confirm Israel's intransigence, preventing the completion of the Middle East peace process on objective and sound foundations. He added that the coolness in Egyptian-Israeli relations is neither new nor a result merely of this current phase reflecting Israeli intransigence on the peace process.

The Egyptian deputy foreign minister confirmed that all agreements concluded with Israel are now frozen because of Israel's intransigence on the peace process and the rights of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Abu-al-Nasr added that political and diplomatic visits between Egypt and Israel have long been suspended. This, he said, is indeed the position at present. He added: Does anyone see anything different?

Commenting on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's interview with Britain's FINANCIAL TIMES, Abu-al-Nasr said: What President Mubarak said in his interview was nothing new. It was not a new development but rather a reflection of the true situation. What else should we expect to hear from the president of the greatest Arab country in response to Israel's intransigence? Yes, President Mubarak refuses to meet with Shamir and he rejects the Israeli position on the building of new settlements. We totally reject the Israeli position.

On the Syrian position, Abu-al-Nasr said: We fully agree with the Syrian viewpoint. The principle of a peace conference cannot be upheld without UN participation and unless Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 on the Arab-Israeli conflict form the basis.

Concluding his statement to 'UKAZ, the Egyptian deputy foreign minister said that what is important now is that the Middle East peace process be pushed forward. [passage omitted]

Musa: Israel's Levi To Visit 'Soon'

NC2106110691 Paris AFP in English 1048 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, June 21 (AFP)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on Friday confirmed reports that his Israeli counterpart David Levi would soon visit Egypt as part of ongoing efforts to unblock the Middle East peace process.

"Egypt enjoys an open dialogue with all the parties concerned with the peace process and Israel is one of the principal parties in the peace process," said Mr. Musa.

The foreign minister stressed that Cairo wanted to "keep all our options open, including Egyptian-Israeli contacts" and was willing to invite "any other Israeli party that would like to have a dialogue with us."

Mr. Musa said Mr. Levi's visit could take place "in the coming weeks."

Musa Comments on Israeli 'Rejection' of Peace

NC2006151291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has expressed the hope that reports coming from Israel about its rejection of the peace efforts do not represent the final Israeli official position. In a statement today, Musa said that the peace process is still in an early stage, and that efforts are continuing to reach a just and comprehensive peace that will establish stability in the region. Noting that Egypt is working with all parties to achieve peace, he said he hoped peace can be achieved as soon as possible because this will serve the interests of all countries in the region.

Mubarak-Husayn Summit Reportedly Being Arranged

JN1506185291 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jun 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] I have learned from diplomatic sources in Cairo that important contacts are under way between Egypt and Jordan to arrange for a summit meeting between President Mubarak and Jordanian King Husayn in the not too distant future to reach an agreement on the bases of a unified Arab stand toward the peace process.

The sources stated that the contacts have reemphasized the Palestinian people's right to choose those who will represent them in the negotiations and to object to any decisions that are made on the Palestinian problem. The sources said that the two countries agreed during these contacts to adopt an Egyptian-Jordanian plan to move closer to the EEC countries. The plan seeks to stop the establishment of settlements and the deportations of Palestinians from the occupied territories. The two countries will ask the EEC countries and the United Nations to adopt resolutions that provide for specific sanctions against the Israeli Government if it continues

to abide by its present position, and that reaffirm the need for a peace conference to discuss the fate of the occupied Arab territories.

It has been learned that the two countries' foreign ministers were instructed to pursue the formulation of a practical concept enabling the implementation of this plan and to seek regional and international alternatives that will check the Israeli schemes.

It has also been learned that Syria supports the Egyptian-Jordanian plan and will seek, for its part, to contact the Soviet Union and other international parties to bring pressure to bear on Israel.

Musa Denies Ties With GCC 'Lukewarm'

NC2006155591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jun (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has denied that relations between Egypt and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries are lukewarm, adding that proof of his assertion is provided by President Husni Mubarak's visits to Kuwait and Bahrain and his recent meetings with Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman and Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation.

In a statement today, Musa pointed out that Egypt and the GCC countries are in constant contact at the summit and lower levels to resolve all problems. He noted there are numerous matters which require consultations among these countries, adding that the results of these consultations are positive. One such matter, he said, is the implementation of the Damascus Declaration, and consultations on this issue are currently under way.

Cairo Turns Down Membership in Maghreb Union

JN1906092691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Dubayy, 19 Jun, (WAKH)—Egypt has turned down a surprising Libyan offer by Libyan President Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi for Egypt to join the Maghreb Union after the failure of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC].

The AL-BAYAN newspaper published in Dubayy today did not attributed its report to any sources.

AL-BAYAN added that Egypt has expressed its willingness to cooperate with the Maghreb Union collectively through joint committees or individually with each of the Maghreb Union countries through joint agreements that would provide mutual benefits for the two sides and allow Egypt to enjoy the privileges of the Maghreb Union without it being a member.

Egypt told Libya that legally the ACC still exists, and that maybe the regime in Iraq will change in a manner conducive to reviving ACC activity.

'Amr Musa Interviewed on Arab Relations

PM1806100391 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 14 Jun 91 p 5

[Nabil Suwaydan report on interview with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has said that Arab legitimacy is Egyptian diplomatic action's base for building an Arab solidarity based on openness and free from slogans.

In an exclusive interview with SAWT AL-KUWAYT, 'Amr Musa said that Egypt has always been and will continue to be an integral part of the Arab world, as its vital interests are organically linked with it. This is why Egypt is playing a major role at the Arab and regional levels. And through its role in the Gulf crisis—which proceeded from a firm conviction—it has proved that the Arab world's development and cohesion can be based only on legitimacy and respect for mutual rights and that Arab legitimacy is an integral part of international legitimacy and must be consistent with it with regard to all the issues it is dealing with.

'Amr Musa emphasized an important fact; namely, that Egypt's policy at the regional, pan-Arab, and international levels is a firm policy under President Husni Mubarak's leadership and that Egypt has always emphasized the need to realize Arab solidarity and unity, because it believes that Arab consensus is the only way to deal with the international order, with its new characteristics. In addition, safeguarding the Arab peoples' interests requires that that order be dealt with on the basis of the new concepts and practices dominating today's world. He said that President Mubarak emphasized that point during the contacts he has had in recent weeks with the leaders of the fraternal Arab states.

Regarding his recent visit to Syria, 'Amr Musa said that it was to complement the talks between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak in Cairo the Wednesday before last, when the two presidents reviewed Arab issues, the situation in the Middle East region, ways of bolstering the peace process, and the two countries' view of the elements that should be ensured for an Arab and regional security system that would provide security for the Arab region's states, including Gulf security, in accordance with the contents of the Damascus Declaration.

Egypt's foreign minister added: The Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was a challenge to the ideas that prevailed at the time about the security of the Gulf region and of the Arab region in general. After the violent hurricane to which our region was exposed, the situation required a revision of concepts concerning security in the region and a reassessment of it. At this stage, a dialogue and a discussion are taking place among the parties concerned with the establishment of that security system on the basis of the values and principles that brought the Damascus Declaration's signatory states together. Among the foremost of these aims are respect for states'

territorial integrity and noninterference in their internal affairs and freedom to dispose of their economic resources. The meetings of representatives of the Damascus Declaration's signatory states are conducted within that framework with the aim of arriving at a final stable formula for the desired Arab security.

Asked about Kuwaiti-Egyptian relations after Egypt's decision to withdraw its forces from Kuwait, the Egyptian foreign minister said: First, I would like to emphasize that, as President Mubarak said, the Egyptian forces went to Kuwait to perform a pan-Arab duty and commitment, namely to defend Kuwait within the framework of Arab, Islamic, and international legitimacy.

On that basis, it is not right to assume the existence of a disagreement between Egypt and Kuwait as a kind of interpretation of the forces' withdrawal. This is because Egypt did not send its forces to Kuwait in return for a material reward; it proceeded from its pan-Arab and strategic commitment. On this occasion I emphasize that Egyptian-Kuwaiti relations are constructive and totally sound, as cooperation is being conducted in various fields, especially with regard to the economic cooperation based on sound foundations in the two countries' interests.

On the proposals to rid the region of mass destruction weapons, 'Amr Musa said: Egypt has announced its support for U.S. President Bush's initiative, proceeding from its awareness of the danger of the escalation of the arms race and the ambitions aroused by superiority in that field in a manner that threatens peace and security in the region. Egypt shares the international community's interest in disarmament issues. This is in addition to our contribution in this field in the past. Egypt is anxious that the following three considerations be taken into account in any efforts to limit armaments in the region:

First, the measures to limit armaments must include all the region's states without exception.

Second, these measures must include all mass destruction weapons, including nuclear weapons.

Third, armaments must be limited through reliable means in order to ensure the seriousness and accurate implementation of these measures. All the region's states, including Israel, must join the Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and all their activities in this regard must be subjected to the inspection and control of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

On the efforts to impart impetus to the peace process 'Amr Musa said that Egypt's established aim is the restoration of the Palestinians' right to self-determination and Israel's withdrawal from the Arab territories it occupied in 1967. Egypt believes that Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 include the basic elements for resolving peace issues in the region. Egypt also agrees that it is the Palestinian people who decide whether to accept or reject what agrees with their national aspirations. I believe that the impetus gained by the peace issue as a result of a revision of the concepts that prevailed before the Gulf war, the political and moral commitment to implementing international legitimacy with regard to the Palestinian issue along the line of what was sought in the Gulf crisis, the concern being expressed by the United States for settling international and regional problems, and the total cooperation between the two superpowers—all these factors lead to a realistic anticipation of the possibility of arriving at a just settlement of the Palestinian problem at this stage as a result of the efforts currently being made.

The Egyptian foreign minister concluded his interview by commenting on Shamir's rejection of U.S. President Bush's message on boosting peace efforts. He said that "placing obstacles in the way of peace efforts is a serious matter and those that do this bear the responsibility."

Country To Receive Grant From Arab Fund

NC1806182291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Jun (MENA)—Egypt and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development today signed a memorandum of understanding by which the fund will contribute $85 million to the implementation of two new irrigation projects in Egypt through a nonrefundable grant.

The memorandum was signed for Egypt by Engineer 'Ismat Radi, minister of public works and water resources, and fund Director Nasir al-Nuways. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Attends Congress Closing Session

LD1806134691 Tripoli Voice of the Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1140 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Summary] The General People's Congress concluded its deliberations last night after "seven days of objective and scientific discussions." The leader of the revolution attended the closing session, where he reaffirmed his confidence that the masses throughout the world will ultimately triumph by establishing direct democracy to replace the bankrupt parliamentary democracies.

General People's Congress Issues Resolutions

LD1806202191 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1600 GMT 18 Jun 91

["Text" of "resolutions of the Basic People's Congresses formulated by the General People's Congress at the end of its meetings" in Surt on 17 June]

[Text] Surt, 18 Jun (JANA)—The Great Jamahiriyah has recorded an influential and effective presence at the foreign level encompassing fields of pan-Arab and international action. This was one of the fruits of the efforts

that the brother leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution has made and is still making. These efforts have strengthened the pan-Arab and international role of the revolution, affirmed the credibility of its intellectual and ideological vision of events and keen political vision of international changes and the factors regulating them, and dealt with them in a way that serves the aims of the foreign policy of the Jamahiriyah.

The leader of the revolution's vision and his sound analysis of events, which have been witnessed by the pan-Arab and international arenas and their results, have given a distinguished role to the Great Jamahiriyah, which it was able to assume with efficiency at the pan-Arab, African, and international levels.

First: The results of the visit of the brother leader to fraternal and friendly states.

The Basic People's Congresses [BPC's] discussed the results of the visits of the brother leader of the revolution to fraternal and friendly states and expressed satisfaction and affirmed the following:

1. Their deep satisfaction with the positive results brought about by the visits of the brother leader of the revolution to the fraternal and friendly countries.

2. Their high esteem for the efforts and initiatives of the brother leader of the revolution in entrenching the pan-Arab, African, and international action and express their pride in the pan-Arab and humanitarian steps he has made in order to deepen unionist action and extend bridges of understanding and friendship with the peoples of the world states.

3. To strengthen the historic unionist steps, stress their importance and necessity, and work for their speedy implementation on the way to comprehensive Arab unity.

4. Their high esteem for the historic steps taken by the brother leader of the revolution by destroying the artificial border gates with Arab countries, and they call on the Arab countries to remove the imaginary borders and facilitate the movement of Arab citizens inside the great Arab homeland, in implementation of the agreement on Arab economic unity.

5. To push forward the march of the Arab Maghreb Union, considering that it is the core for achieving comprehensive Arab unity.

6. To entrust the General People's Committee with following up on, programming, and implementing the results of the visits of the brother leader of the revolution, and to consider them as a working method for the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.

Second: The results of the visits of the heads of fraternal and friendly states to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The BPC's reviewed the results of the visits of the heads of fraternal and friendly states and expressed their satisfaction with what these visits had realized and reaffirmed the following:

1. The necessity of following up on the results and agreements from visits of [leaders of] fraternal and friendly states to the Great Jamahiriyah, and charging the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation and the specialized qualitative committees with carrying this out.

2. To consolidate relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and the peoples of the world, on account that permanent relations are between peoples and not governments, and in a manner that consolidates international development and the peace movement.

3. To seriously work for the implementation of joint agreements and programs at the Arab homeland level, and to take interest in them in order to realize Arab economic integration in preparation for the establishment of comprehensive Arab unity.

4. To make more political efforts with the Arab kings and presidents in order to repair the crack resulting from the Gulf war, in order to strengthen and consolidate joint Arab action.

5. To jointly work with the Arab presidents and kings to combat Zionist infiltration into Africa and Eastern Europe.

Third: The initiative of the brother leader to solve the Kuwaiti problem and to study the dimensions of the Arabian Gulf war and its subsequent results in the Arab region.

The BPC's discussed the initiative of the brother leader of the revolution for solving of the Kuwait problem and the dimensions of the war in the Gulf and its consequences in the region, expressed their satisfaction, and affirmed the following:

1. The BPC's highly appreciate the logical initiative issued by the brother leader for solving the Kuwait crisis within an Arab framework, whose credibility, objectivity, and deep analysis were confirmed. They entrusted the People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau to register it as one of the documents of the United Nations and of the Arab League.

2. To hasten action for the establishment of comprehensive Arab unity in its capacity as the sole, optimum method of solving the enduring Arab problems and issues, coming out of the hotbed of rifts, disunity, and foreign domination; and settling the issues of the Arab nation through the Arab League and the development of its charter on the basis of the Arab Union Plan submitted by the brother leader of the revolution, and the call for holding an Arab summit to heal the rift and contain the negative effects of the Kuwait crisis.

3. To implement the principle of international legitimacy in relation to all international issues, including that of Palestine; to transfer UN headquarters from America; and to abolish the veto privilege.

4. To uphold the unity of Iraqi soil, lift the economic siege imposed on its people, provide all assistance to it, and work for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Arab territories.

5. To stress the role of the Arab Maghreb Union in order to bring about an equilibrium in the map of Arab politics; to coordinate and exchange visits among the countries of the Arab homeland and to urge them to adhere to the implementation of Arab agreements, foremost the economic unity agreement and the Joint Arab Defense Treaty.

Fourth: Discussion of the report of the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau. The BPC's discussed the report of the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau, expressed their satisfaction, and affirmed the following:

1. Their satisfaction with the report and the external political activity exerted to heal the rift in the Arab ranks, and asserted the need to intensify efforts in this respect.

2. To strengthen the People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau, brotherhood bureaus [embassies in Arab countries], and people's bureaus [embassies in non-Arab countries] materially and morally, with competent elements, so that they can perform their mission.

3. To charge the People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau with taking necessary measures to achieve the following:

a) Develop and deepen relations of fraternity with the Arab countries in a way that achieves comprehensive Arab unity, and work to establish balanced policies with the states of the world.

b) Follow up on and to liberation movements and ascertain the extent of its effectiveness.

c) Help Libyan Arab residents abroad to return to the land of the Great Jamahiriyah.

d) Document relations with the peoples of the world, especially the progressive states of Africa, and support the Muslims on the continent.

On the barbaric aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah.

Sixth [number as heard]: Review of what had been achieved with regard to the demand for reparations from America for the damage caused by the barbaric aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah.

The BPC's have discussed what had been achieved with regard to the demand from America for reparations for the damage caused by its barbaric aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah, expressed their satisfaction, and affirmed the following:

1. The right of the Great Jamahiriyah to reparations for all the losses suffered by the Libyan Arab people as a result of the American-Atlanticist aggression in 1986.

2. To strive tirelessly to exploit every political situation to raise this issue before international and regional organizations and bodies, and to convince public opinion of the justness of the principles of reparations.

3. To carry out more international contacts in order to gain the reparations in accordance with resolutions of United Nations General Assembly and other international organizations in this respect, and to continue to ask America for this.

4. To value the efforts of the People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau and the yielded international results denouncing this barbaric aggression and exposing its effects among the peoples of the world.

5. To refer the case for reparations to the International Court of Justice, together with the need for those who suffered losses as a result of this barbaric aggression to bring individual lawsuits before courts.

6. To open channels to secure contact with the American people to explain the objectives and principles of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution and bring the voice of the Libyan Arab people inside America.

Seventh: The activities of the brotherhood and people's bureaus. The BPC's discussed the activities of the brotherhood and people's bureaus. They expressed their satisfaction with those activities and affirmed the following:

1. To continue deepening the course of unity with fraternal countries in order to bring closer the day of comprehensive Arab unity and to strengthen ties of friendship and understanding with the friendly countries, taking into consideration the need to benefit from agreements concluded with fraternal and friendly states.

2. To work toward making available the necessary facilities and to hasten the transfer of funds allocated to the brotherhood and people's bureaus abroad in order to enable them to perform their roles, and to stress administrative coordination among the people's bureaus abroad.

3. To bolster the brotherhood and people's bureaus abroad with elements competent in foreign political work, and to utilize Libyan Arab elements in order to ensure the success of these bureaus.

4. To take care of the Libyan Arab students studying abroad, to monitor their educational achievements, and to solve their material problems, in order to ensure the conclusion of their studies. Also to take care of the Arab communities abroad.

5. To take care of the health bureaus in order to ensure that they perform their role of monitoring the treatment of citizens abroad well.

6. The importance of owning the premises of the brotherhood and people's bureaus [as received], and to expand the setting up of cultural centers and schools abroad, in order to allow them to perform their roles in propaganda and the defense of the revolution and its objectives.

7. To focus on the objective study and operational monitoring of the state of the brotherhood and people's bureaus, to entrust them with preparing annual reports on their activities and financial expenditures, and to present these to the BPC's. Such reports are to include the assistance provided to Libyan citizens abroad.

Eighth: The Palestine cause.

The BPC's discussed the submitted report on the Palestine cause and affirmed the following:

1. The firmness of the attitude of the Great Jamahiriyah toward the Palestinian cause and the revolution of stones [intifadah] which was expressed in the letter of the brother leader of the revolution to the CSCE in Paris.

2. Rejection of the capitulationist resolutions imposed on the Palestinian Arab people, and entrusting the People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau to contact the Arab countries with a view to defining their attitudes to the Palestinian cause.

3. Invite all the sisterly and friendly countries at the United Nations to stand with the Palestinian people, to defend them from the Zionist terror machine, and to unify the Arab attitude to the Palestinian cause.

4. Support the revolution of stones materially and morally and stand without bounds by the heroes of this revolution until victory.

5. Work by all means at various levels to halt the sending of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union, Ethiopia, and various states of the world to occupied Palestine.

6. Assert the opening of the borders of the confrontation states before Palestinian fida'i action.

7. Work to set up an Arab fund to support the Palestinian cause and grant them financial rewards and make them [ilzamahum] return to the occupied territories.

8. Support the struggle of the Palestinian people led by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, for the return to its land and the preservation of all its basic rights: to return and to self-determination.

Ninth: The Arab Maghreb Union [AMU]

The BPC's discussed the detailed report about the AMU and expressed their satisfaction and confirmed the following:

1. The BPC's value the efforts of the brother leader of the revolution and chairman of the AMU Presidential Council in its present session, and express their satisfaction at the steps that had been taken and are being taken to push this Union toward the realization of its objectives.

2. To expedite the implementation of all agreements adopted and the completion of building the rest of the Union's institutions.

3. To work for calling on the AMU countries to remove all the imaginary borders and gates, to abolish all procedures that consecrate division among the sons of the Arab Maghreb, to facilitate procedures for the movement of individuals among them, and encourage commercial dealings among the states of the AMU.

4. Confirm the necessity for strengthening the march of the AMU, which is being regarded as a step on the road to achieving comprehensive Arab unity, for the realization of the wishes of the Arab people and their aspirations for unity and progress.

Tenth: Discussion of the international situation in the aftermath of international changes, especially in Eastern Europe. The BPC's discussed the international situation in the aftermath of international changes, especially in Eastern Europe, and expressed the following remarks:

1. The (need) for serious work to achieve the comprehensive Arab unity to confront the challenges which face the Arab nation, and stress the directives of the brother leader of the revolution in considering the year 1991 the year for achieving Arab unity and to work toward setting up an Arab common market.

2. To regard the thought of the international leader as exposed in the third universal theory as a methodology for intellectual work and the sole alternative for the peoples of Eastern Europe.

3. To work to appraise the relations with Eastern Europe with a view to guranteeing the interests of the Great Jamahiriyah and the Arab nation.

4. To stress the cooperation between the Arab Maghreb Union and the EEC, making the Mediterranean a lake of peace, free from weapons of mass destruction, and to conduct an effective Arab dialogue with the EEC with a view to achieving the interests of the Arab nation.

5. To stand against all imperialist schemes aimed at world domination, and combat Zionist penetration into Eastern Europe.

6. To cooperation with all regional and international organizations on the basis of common interests and away from subordination and hegemony.

7. To stress the initiative of the brother leader of the revolution, which calls for the formation of a universal front of small peace-loving peoples to stand in the face of imperialist and Zionist schemes.

Eleventh: Ratification of agreements and treaties concluded by the Great Jamahiriyah in 1990-1991

The BPC's reviewed the agreement and treaties concluded with sisterly and friendly states, ratified them and expressed the following remarks that have to be followed in the future:

1. To stress economic returns in agreement and treaties concluded by the Great Jamahiriyah, their rapid execution, paying attention to scientific and training aspects, giving priority to technical expertise and manpower from the Arab world.

2. The need for the People's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau to prepare draft treaties and agreements to be concluded in the future.

Mauritania

Information Minister Outlines Draft Constitution

LD1806125591 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Ahmed Ould Khalifa Ould Jiddou, minister of information and official spokesman for the government, commented today on the draft constitution that was recently approved by the Military Committee for National Salvation [MCNS] and decided to refer to a referendum on 12 July. The minister described the draft constitution as being one of the most advanced constitutions in view of the freedoms and guarantees granted to the individuals and groups. He said that it reflects the history of this people and its heritage and expresses its ideals and aspirations. Here is the text of the minister's commentary:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In accordance with the announcement [word indistinct] by His Excellency President Maaouiya Ould Sid'ahmed Taya in his speech on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr, the MCNS decided in its extraordinary session held on 9 June 1991 to submit the draft resolution after study to the people by means of a referendum to be organized on 12 July. This begins the second stage of the democratic march, which this people started five years ago under the leadership of the 12 [word indistinct] 1984 movement.

It cannot escape the mind that the constitution as a basic law represents absolute legitimacy in its capacity as an expression of the will of the people and defines the quality, relationship, and powers of institutions that embody this will. It is the basis of the state of the law whose edification on this good land remained a legitimate ambition of the masses and fundamental political choice. Hence, the preparation of the draft constitution and its submission to the people represents a prominent event in the life of this nation and one of the main gains it has scored.

For the first time, Mauritanian citizens feel that their basic individual and collective freedoms and that their [word indistinct] dignity will be in the shadow and protection of a law that expresses their will and to which all the authorities as well as every citizen will be subject. Also for the first time this people is granted the freedom to organize and expression by means of political multiplicity and the guaranteeing of trade union freedom and the freedom of the press.

Man, on this soil, is innocent unless his conviction is legally proven, and he can [word indistinct] out any discrimination on the basis of origin, race, sex, or social standing—and even more than this: The law punishes any tendentious propaganda and all behavior of a racial or ancestral nature. [passage omitted]

It is a constitution of an Islamic, Arab, and African people, a people which has chosen the rulings of the tolerant Islamic religion as the sole source of legislation, a people attached to the international charters and treaties on human rights, a people that extends its hand to its brothers so that they may work together for the achievement of the unity of the Greater Arab Maghreb, the unity of the Arab nation, and African unity. In short, it is a constitution of a sovereign state and [words indistinct] has an identity and an independent will. And in order to secure the respect of the popular will, the draft constitution consecrates the separation of the authorities and the multiplicity of the centers of these authorities.

In addition to the executive authority, there is legislative authority consisting of two chambers: a National Assembly and a Senate, and also a judicial authority. There are also a Constitutional Council and two consultative councils: the Supreme Islamic Council and the Economic and Social Council. [passage omitted]

The president of the republic, who exercises the executive power [words indistinct] is the protector of the constitution and guarantees in his capacity as an arbiter the regular and continuous operation of the public authorities, and he is the guarantor of national independence and the national territory. The president also appoints the prime minister and members of the Cabinet on whom falls, by delegation from him, the responsibility of administering the affairs of the state and who are considered accountable to the president and the legislative bodies. The legislative authority, the people's deputies, drafts the laws and also observes the government's administration of important matters, at a time when the Constitutional Council watches over the implementation of the basic law and the legitimacy of the elections.

As for the judicial authority, it is independent of the executive and legislative authorities. The president of the republic guarantees this independence, assisted in this by the Supreme Judicial Council. The role of the Supreme Islamic Council is to provide its opinion to the president of the republic on matters about which he

consults it. This council has a special status in view of the [word indistinct] that provides for the adoption of the rulings of Islam as the sole source of legislation in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania. The Economic and Social Council plays the same role in its field of competence. [passage omitted]

New Draft Constitution Made Public

LD1106210891 Paris Radio France International in French 06:30 GMT 11 Jun 91

[Text] A draft for a new constitution was made public in Mauritania yesterday. It will be put to a referendum on 12 July. The details now, with Kamel Djaider:

[Djaider] It is a draft constitution based on a multiparty system. One hundred and three articles will be put to the vote of Mauritanians. The text gives wide powers to the president of the Republic—a president who will be elected for a renewable mandate, without limitations, for six years. He will also be responsible for leading the government. The legislative power will consist of a national Assembly elected for five years, and a Senate elected for six years and representing local communities.

In addition this draft guarantees freedom of association, of opinion, and of expression, and institutes an Islamic republic, Arab and African. Four languages will be acknowledged as national languages. Arabic, naturally, as well as the three languages of the black Africans of the country: Poular, Wolof, and Soninke. The law also makes provision for a constitutional council, and rejects any propaganda based on regional or ethnic grounds. You understand to what the text refers.

The new institutions will be put into place in nine months at the latest, after the constitution is passed. In the meantime, the country will still be ruled by the Military Committee for National Salvation. As far as the law on political parties and the press is concerned, it will be promulgated two weeks after the referendum. It is a turning point in the political life of this Maghreb country, which has also been confronted by the multiparty syndrome agitating the whole of the continent.

Government Says UTM Strike Order Illegal

LD1606183091 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 07:30 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Communique issued by the Ministry of Civil Service, Labor, Youth, and Sports; place and date not given]

[Text] The Ministry of Civil Service, Labor, Youth, and Sports announces that on 9 June, it received a letter from the Executive Committee of the Mauritanian Trade Union Workers [UTM] announcing an order for a limited general strike of 48 hours from 19 to 20 June.

After studying all the legal aspects and considering the peace that prevails in the public and private sectors, and after examining the UTM statutes, the Ministry of Civil Service, Labor, Youth and Sports states:

Concerning the motives for a general strike, Bill 74/149 of 11 July 1974, Article 48, forbids recourse to strikes as long as negotiations between government, management, and workers are under way, and that draft minutes positing a partial nonreconciliation of [word indistinct] are required, which is not the case today.

The negotiations were unilaterally interrupted by the UTM Executive Committee. No draft minutes of nonreconciliation had been established at a time when the state has been demonstrating a deep understanding for workers' demands.

Second, concerning the c'deadlines' for the strike, Bill 71/207 of 5 April 1971 relating to strikes clearly stipulates that the Ministry of Labor and Civil Service must be informed 30 days prior to the date set for a strike; but in this case, the ministry was informed only 10 days in advance.

Third, concerning the UTM statutes, Article 38 stipulates that a limited or an unlimited general strike can only be approved by two-thirds of the UTM National Bureau; but in this case, the strike was decided upon by the Executive Committee in violation of the statutes.

For all these reasons, the ministry informs all Mauritanian workers that this strike is illegal [words indistinct] reciprocal relations among employers and not the least those [words indistinct].

In conclusion, the ministry remains convinced that the negotiations between government, management, and workers are the only way to solve workers' problems. The ministry will see to it that negotiations take place in an atmosphere of trust and respect.

First General Strike Under Way

LD1906171091 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Excerpts] The first general strike in Mauritania's history was called today. Wage demands are behind the strike. It is, of course, a testing time for the Mauritanian Government but also for the Mauritanian Workers' Union [UTM], which called the strike that the authorities consider to be illegal. In any case, for the time being it seems that apart from the general administration, most of the vital sectors of the country are supporting the strike. Carmen Bader reports.

[Bader] For this first general strike and in view of recent events in the country one might have expected extensive paralysis. However, it seems that several sectors were working more or less normally this morning in the capital, particularly, as you said, in the general administration. [passage omitted]

The markets in the working class areas, such as the fifth and sixth districts, were either closed or few people were there. We also know that several factories closed their doors—for example, the Coca Cola plant in Nouakchott.

But it is in the capital's harbor region and in Nouadhibou, and in the mining sector such as at Zouerate—another vital sector of the Mauritanian economy—that reducted activity was most noticeable this morning. The UTM leadership speaks of almost complete paralysis in this connection.

This is how things are at the moment in the main urban centers, where the authorities have considerably strengthened the military security cordons around certain points that are considered to be strategic. [passage omitted]

General Strike Order Reportedly Fails

AB2006135291 Paris AFP in French 1340 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Nouakchott, 19 Jun (AFP)—The call for a 48-hour general strike launched by the Mauritanian Workers Union seems to have gathered a very small following today, according to an AFP survey in Nouakchott. The civil service operated quite normally this morning, as did the National Electricity Company—no power outage was noted—the free port, Air Mauritania, and the National Industrial and Mining Company, considered as the country's "test" companies.

According to reports reaching AFP, Nouadhibou, the country's industrial capital was also not affected by the strike. The same applies to Zouerate, the mining center in the north. According to these reports, a heavy security force, comprising mainly the police, was deployed both in Nouakchott and Nouadhibou. Most businesses in the capital seemed to operate normally. Several private companies, notably hotels, and major embassies, however, experienced a rate of absenteeism exceeding 50 percent, according to various accounts.

The failure of this strike order seems linked to government threats to immediately dismiss any worker who misses work today, as well as to divisions within the executive bureau of the union federation. Over the past few days, 17 of its 32 members have disassociated themselves from the strike order. In addition, for many workers, today is the last pay day before the festival of the ram, so they showed up at their workplaces "to, at least, collect their paychecks and to buy sheep for the celebration," an observer stressed.

It will be recalled that the union has asked for a 77-percent salary increase, based on claims that prices increased by 280 percent during its period of reference. The authorities for their part claim that the union federation's decision to go on strike was "illegal" because the rules concerning strike warnings were not respected.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Begins Preparing for Talks With Rebels

EA1906201591 Khartoum SUNA in French 0927 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Jun (SUNA) General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council (NSRCC), has given directives for the establishment of an operations room [chambre d'operation] to make preparations for the anticipated peace talks between the government and the rebel movement, according to Brigadier Pio Yukwan, member of the NSRCC and chairman of the NSRCC Political Committee.

Brig. Yukwan, who was addressing a political meeting held yesterday as part of the celebrations marking the second anniversary of the National Salvation Revolution, reviewed the negative effects of the war in southern Sudan, pointing out that there are now no more grounds for this war.

Foreign Minister Confirms Contacts With Garang

JN1606132391 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 16 Jun 91

[Text] Is southern Sudan heading toward peace? This is confirmed by initial reports about mediation between the Sudanese Government and the rebels, led by John Garang. These developments follow Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir's call on the rebels to engage in negotiations with the Sudanese Government in order to end the rebellion and find a solution for the problem of southern Sudan. Rebel leader Garang's acceptance of this invitation heralds a solution to the problem of southern Sudan. This has been confirmed by Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul in reply to a question posed by this radio. He said:

[Begin recording] Following the lieutenant general's call for negotiations with the rebel movement, we learned from a number of African presidents that rebel leader John Garang has contacted them and expressed willingness to negotiate and establish peace. Therefore, contacts are under way to arrange for this process. Nigerian President Babangida is playing a basic role in the current contacts. This is what has thus far been achieved in this regard. [end recording]

Delegation Leaves for Europe To Discuss Refugees

EA1706111791 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 June 91

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Jun (SUNA)—Professor 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, culture minister and government spokesman, left for Geneva yesterday morning at the head of a high-ranking delegation, in accordance with a European tour scheduled to include Italy, Switzerland, and Britain, to inform organizations and agencies of the conditions of Ethiopian refugees. The delegation comprises Brigadier 'Abd-al-Rahman Sirr al-Khatim, the refugee commissioner, and Dr. Khayr 'Abd-al-Rahman, the Health Ministry's first undersecretary. The delegation will explain the conditions of those refugees to the concerned parties and voluntary refugee relief organizations.

Meanwhile, today's issue of AL-INQAD AL-WATANI reported that the influx of Ethiopian refugees into Eastern State was still going on, and that the number of

refugees [word indistinct] on the Sudanese-Ethiopian frontiers has reached 154,000 refugees, in addition to 2,767 refugees at the Awad camp, and 1,527 refugees at the Qalansah camp near Kassala town, capital of Eastern State. The newspaper added that 3,622 refugees have been moved to Dardib in Eastern State. Meanwhile, the refugee commission said that the refugee influx was still going on as of yesterday, Saturday, and that during the past two days more than 1,000 refugees had arrived.

Meanwhile, Dr. Husayn 'Uthman (Malas), director general of the health sector in Eastern State, has stated to AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH published here today that the state had exhausted the stock of emergency medicine that it usually stored every year to be used in the summer and autumn seasons, when transport activities are halted because of the rains. The medicine has run out due to the enormous influx of Ethiopian refugees who are taking refuge in the east of the country. Earlier the refugee commission had allocated food requirements in the camps for 165,000 refugees, [words indistinct] tonnes of grain, 32 tonnes of vegetables, and 200 tonnes of cooking oil.

RCC Member Briefs Media on Refugee Situation

EA2006111091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Text] Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and head of the department of peace and foreign relations, met leaders of the information media and the press at Friendship Hall this morning. He reviewed developments in the Horn of Africa and the intensive efforts being made by Sudan to provide relief and shelter for refugees and returnees.

Col. Khalifah explained that Sudan had chosen this course of action out of concern for the rights of neighbors and commitment to resolutions of international organizations and charters in this regard. He said it was necessary to contain the situation both internally and externally as well as to contain the causes of the influx of refugees, whose numbers have now reached 162,558.

Col. Khalifah said the government had implemented an emergency plan. He disclosed that he had also briefed ambassadors of Arab and Western countries on the real situation, in addition to organizing visits for them to the refugee locations. He said officials had held discussions with the director of the World Food Program on providing food aid and referred to the response of the relief donors. Col. Khalifah said there was broad response to the peace operation in addition to an extensive voluntary return to the homeland. He reiterated the revolution's commitment to peace.

Relocation of Ethiopian Refugees Under Way

EA2006103891 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Jun (SUNA)—Today 7,000 Ethiopian refugees were transferred to Al-Faw camp No. 1 in Eastern State, thereby starting the relocation of Ethiopian refugees to camps set aside for them in Eastern and Central States. There are five camps in all. This was disclosed by Dr. Ahmad al-As, deputy commissioner for refugees, who also confirmed that 1,657 women and children refugees had been transported to the village of Hanan, near Abu Rakham in Eastern State. Another 3,654 refugees were recently transported to Dardib camp. Dr. al-As added that refugees were being transported in succession to the other camps, Nos. 2 to 5. He said that each camp had the capacity for between 20,000 and 25,000 refugees.

The deputy commissioner said that the refugee commission, in cooperation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees [UNHCR], provided foodstuffs and shelter for the refugees while the government of Eastern State was taking care of sick refugees in government hospitals. He said that national organizations would assume health supervision of the refugees inside the camps in collaboration with foreign organizations, the refugee commission, and the UNHCR. He added that the food situation was reassuring as emergency budgets had been approved by the UNHCR in Geneva. Purchases from abroad are being awaited.

Radio Says Rebel SPLA Facing Difficulties

EA1706111591 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Jun 91

[Text] Press reports coming from the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, say that the rebel movement is currently facing a difficult situation after its remnants were dispersed in the wake of the events in Ethiopia. This complicated situation has confused Garang's moves on all the political and military levels.

Those reports confirm that the fall of Mengistu's regime has deprived Garang's group of a strong ally and of strategic positions inside Ethiopian territories, which it used for launching attacks and setting up training camps. The reports also confirmed that Garang's loss of his radio, which used to broadcast from inside Ethiopian territory, means that he has lost more than 50 percent of his true strength. Moreover, the reports added that the fact that neighboring African countries are not granting Garang and his group any privileges has contributed to further complications for the rebel movement.

The Sudanese Government has restricted the rebel arena of movement by confirming its commitment to solving the problem of war in the south by peaceful means.

Egyptian Paper Reports on Protest Demonstrations

NC2006151991 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 16 Jun 91 p 9

[Unattributed report]

[Excerpt] Mass demonstrations took place in various neighborhoods in the Sudanese capital on 12 June to

protest the [Islamic] Front's decision to replace the Sudanese currency, as well as the deteriorating economic and political conditions in the country. People arriving from Sudan have asserted that the Sa'd Qishrah business district in central Khartoum was the scene of violent demonstrations which extended to adjacent areas. According to eyewitnesses, the Islamic Front's central reserve police force used tear gas and clubs to disperse the demonstrators. The eyewitnesses add that the police are still patrolling various districts in the capital to deter any possible subversion.

According to eyewitnesses, the demonstrators denounced the Islamic Front's rule, shouted slogans calling for an overthrow of the government, and demanded the reestablishment of democracy and the multiparty system. [passage omitted]

Western Sahara

Polisario To Meet, Elect Leader

Polisario To Begin Congress

LD1706213391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1200 GMT 17 Jun 91

[Text] The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] is to hold its congress today somewhere in the Sahara. The venue has not been made public. The congress, whose agenda was not made public either, is likely to be the last before the holding of the referendum for self-determination of the Sahraoui people planned for December 1991. This is going to be a special congress considering that it is going to prepare a part of the Sahraoui people to return to the country of their ancestors following 18 years of exile for some of them.

Polisario Leader Opens Congress

LD1906201191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1200 GMT 18 Jun 91

[Excerpt] The proceedings of the Eighth Congress of the Polisario Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] opened yesterday evening in Tindouf. The opening was marked by a speech by Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] and secretary general of the Polisario Front. This extraordinary congress constitutes a real preparation for a forthcoming event planned for the end of 1991, a decisive date for the future of this people in its 18 year struggle as our special correspondent, Mariam Yacine, explains.

[Yacine] This date will be the referendum for self-determination which is the last step of the UN plan the implementation of which is currently being stepped up. The Saharans will have to vote for independence or integration with Morocco. Here, there is no room for doubt in the eyes of the Saharans and their leaders. The outcome of this referendum will inevitably be independence. They are preparing and mobilizing themselves for it.

What will be the future Saharan state then? Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the SDAR and secretary general of the Polisario Front, defined it yesterday evening during the official opening of the eighth congress. It will be a democratic state, a modern state, capable of defending its sovereignty and independence, a state which will have the people as its wealth and capital. Economy will be that of free enterprise. Politically, it will adopt a multiparty system.

Mohamed Abdelaziz also defined the relations of the Saharan state with its immediate neighbors including Morocco. These will be relations of cooperation which he wanted to be exemplary. We aspire to edify a country which will work for stability, peace and brotherhood in our region. So, for this date with destiny, the first condition for success is, Mr. Mohamed Abdelaziz said, to reach a consensus of all the Saharans round a national program which will mobilize all the energies of the Saharan people. The participants at the congress, which number over 2000, are to take, during these three or more days, decisions and resolutions which will, their president recalled, definitely mark the destiny of their nation. [passage omitted]

Polisario Reelects Secretary General

LD2006225891 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Mohamed Abdelaziz has been reelected secretary general of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia el Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front, as well as a secretariat consisting of 53 members. The new secretariat, which replaces the Executive Committee and the Political Bureau, will lead the referendum battle on the basis of a strategy decided by the congress.

The reelection of Mohamed Abdelaziz and a national secretariat was by consensus among the 2,000 delegates who attended the work of the congress, during which a draft new constitution was also adopted.

The text of the new constitution will be the subject of extensive discussions before it is adopted by a referendum.

The congress, which determined a strategy for conducting the referendum for self-determination of the Saharan people, also adopted a work program regarding the continuation of the current policy, especially in the social and economic fields, as well as the ways and means of achieving this before and after the preparations for the referendum process.

The congress sent a message to the UN Secretary General thanking him for his efforts for the confirmation of the Saharan people's exercise of their right to self-determination.

The congress also sent an open letter to the Moroccan king reaffirming the will of the Polisario and the Saharan

people to establish friendly and good neighborly relations with Morocco, and calling on him to explicitly join in the referendum process.

Polisario Congress Concludes

LD2006082391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] The Eighth Congress of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] ended this morning with the reelection of Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz as the Front's secretary-general. The participants elected a secretariat consisting of 53 members to replace the Executive Committee and the Political Bureau. The secretariat will also be in charge of running the referendum battle on the basis of a strategy drawn up by the Congress.

Moroccan Daily Slams Polisario Congress

LD1906202291 Rabat MAP in English 1333 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Rabat, June 19 (MAP)—In a story this Wednesday on the opening of the "eighth" congress of the "Polisario" Front [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro], Moroccan daily AL BAYANE pointed out that this congress "is a hoax meant to mask the decay of the structures of this movement and the bitter setbacks it suffered on the diplomatic level".

The daily of the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS/opposition) pointed out that "this farce will only mislead those who refuse to admit the reality", adding that "actually, during the past years, the Polisario's rout was speeded up under the effect of some factors".

"At the military level, the completion of the defence wall to protect the Sahara provinces and the courage of the royal Armed Forces have crushed the vague warlike impulses of the secessionists, forcing them to limit their operations to suicide ones", the daily stated.

The setting up of the Arab Maghreb Union came to confirm the maturity of Maghrebans on the one hand and the total incompatibility existing between the requirements of the unity economic development and the persistance of a climate of tension, kindled by reactionary aims to set up an artificial micro-state, on the other, the daily said adding that the royal blanket pardon to misled elements, was highly appreciated among the Polisario and that influential members of the Front have reintegrated the motherland, Mocorro.

"The polisario has lost on all counts, and things could not have been otherwise because in the end, and as testified by history, fair causes always triumph", the daily concluded.

Kuwait

Lebanon's Buwayz Praises Results of Visit

LD1906211591 London KUNA in Arabic 1345 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 19 Jun (KUNA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has praised the results of the talks he held with Kuwaiti officials. He stressed the support of the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, for the position of Lebanon and its legitimate authority.

In a statement to KUNA prior to his departure—together with his delegation—from the country at noon today, he said he had sensed during his audience with the amir "a great response on the part of His Highness and a detailed awareness of the positive developments toward peace and stability that are taking place in Lebanon."

He added that he had received an assurance from His Highness that he stands alongside Lebanon in all spheres and fields, and that he will not be far away from the process that will soon be launched in Lebanon.

He pointed out that he had also sensed "in His Highness a great response regarding the status of the Lebanese companies that intend to contribute to the reconstruction of Kuwait."

Minister Buwayz said that during his meetings with officials here he discussed a number of bilateral matters of interest to the two fraternal countries.

In this regard, he said, "There is no doubt that the ordeals through which the two countries, Kuwait and Lebanon, have passed make their two governments address themselves in the future to establishing better coordination for the sake of guaranteeing their security and future."

Buwayz also said that Lebanon was moving toward the final stage for imposing its full sovereignty over its homeland, pointing out that additional forces from the Lebanese Army will be sent shortly to Southern Lebanon to free it from all the Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias.

In this respect, the Lebanese minister expressed his hope that the Palestinian side will abide by what it had said and will not be an obstacle in the way of the State of Lebanon regaining its full sovereignty.

Lebanese diplomatic sources have also informed KUNA that Lebanese Minister Faris Buwayz would be returning to Beirut after the visit crowned by his meeting with His Highness the amir and His Highness the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al- Salim al-Sabah. The sources described Minister Buwayz' visit to Kuwait as being "more than successful," and pointed out that it was carried out at the invitation of the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Salim al-Sabah. They explained that a joint Lebanese-Kuwaiti commission is to be formed to define the features of agreement at the economic and other levels. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Departs for Britain

NC2106064791 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] His Highness the Heir Apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah left the country this morning on his way to Britain on a private visit.

Defense Minister Leaves Abu Dhabi for Doha

NC2006113891 (Clandestine) Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi—Defense Minister Shaykh 'Ali Sabah al-Salim left Abu Dhabi for Doha this morning after a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates [UAE].

During the visit, Shaykh al-Salim held talks with Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE state minister for foreign affairs, and discussed current developments in the region and issues of common interest.

Courts Pass More Death Sentences 20 Jun

LD2006132891 London KUNA in Arabic 1155 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Kuwait, 20 Jun (KUNA)—The First, Second, and Fourth Military Courts convened in Kuwait today to continue their consideration in the cases of collaboration with the Iraqi occupation and passed sentences of death by hanging on a number of defendants and imprisonment sentences ranging from one year to life on others.

The first court, presided over by Judge Muhammad Bin-Naji, today passed the sentence of death by hanging on Sabah Muhammad Hasan Tahir, Ra'id Mufid 'Izzat, and Ra'id 'Abd-al'Ra'uf Hamid in absentia and on defendant 'Imad Sami Muhammad 'Ali in his presence.

The court also sentenced three defendants to one year's imprisonment with deportation. They are: Ahmad Rashid Nahid, Sa'ir Mufid 'Izzat, and Muhammad 'Abd-al-Ra'uf Hamid. It also sentenced defendants 'Ali Sayf Rad'an Sayf and Mufid 'Izzat Taha to six years imprisonment with deportation.

The First Military Court also sentenced defendant Jawad 'Abd-al-Rahim Husayn Mandalawi to five years imprisonment with deportation. It acquitted four defendants: Yusuf Muhammad Ghallum Husayn Dashti, 'Abd-al-Amir Muhammad Husayn Tahir, Muhammad 'Abbas Khalawi, and Ramzi Muhammad Mahmud al-'Abd.

It postponed the consideration of a number of other cases until 29 June.

The First Military Court tried the defendants on charges ranging between premeditated aid for the Iraqi enemy, providing services to him, communication with a foreign country, in addition to theft and forgery of official papers.

The Fourth Military Court, presided over by Judge Muhammad 'Abdallah Abu-Habib, today passed the sentence of death by hanging on four defendants: Samir Khalaf 'Abbud, Ma'un Muhammad Ahmad Mas'ud, Ayman Muhammad Ahmad Mas'ud, and Bilal 'Abd-al-Rahim Abu-Hamid. It passed the sentence of life imprisonment on Na'il Subhi al-Burnu and Sami Matar Hamad.

The court also passed the sentence of 12 years imprisonment at labor with deportation on Malik Muhammad Ahmad Sa'ud and Basim Shafiq Ibrahim.

The charges leveled against the defendants before the Fourth Court ranged between collaboration and communication with the Iraqi occupation forces, theft, and the possession of arms without permit.

The Second Military Court, presided over by Judge Khalid al-Muzayyini passed the sentence of imprisonment for two years with deportation against 'Abd-al-Karim 'Abd-al-Jabbar Hasan and Hasan Ya'qub al-Wazzan after convicting them on the charge of possessing arms without a permit. It also passed the sentence of 18 years imprisonment with deportation against the defendant Hamzah 'Abd-al-Fattah after convicting him of collaboration with the Iraqi authorities, defamation of the person of the amir, and theft. It postponed a number of other cases until 15 July.

Further Details on 20 Jun Death Sentences

NC2006135291 Paris AFP in English 1327 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait City, June 20 (AFP)—A Kuwaiti martial law tribunal, defying burgeoning international criticism and appeals for clemency, on Thursday sentenced eight more people to death for collaborating with the Iraqis. [passage omitted]

On Thursday the court imposed the death sentence on two Palestinian brothers, Ma'mun Ma'sud and Ayman Ma'mun Ma'sud, who had been charged with belonging to a radical Palestinian group, the Popular Struggle Front.

They were accused of being trained by the organization to carry weapons to support the occupying Iraqi troops. One of the pair, Ayman Ma'mun Ma'sud, was sentenced in absentia.

Their mother shrieked and cried on hearing the judge's pronouncement and threw herself to the floor outside the courtroom.

Four other Palestinians were condemned to die for collaboration: 'Imad Sami Muhammad, Ra'id Hamad, Bilal 'Abd-al-Rahim Abu-Hamad, and Ra'd 'Izzat—the latter two in absentia.

Also tried and sentenced to death in his absence was Sabah Hassan Taher, an Iraqi resident of the emirate charged with having joined the Popular Army, a militia force created by the Iraqis in Kuwait.

Samir Khalaf, the eighth man condemned Thursday was likewise a resident of Kuwait but was classified here as a "bidoon" (Arabic for "without") and had been denied Kuwaiti nationality. [passage omitted]

Two Palestinians Sentenced to Death

NC2006110891 Paris AFP in English 1042 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Kuwait City, June 20 (AFP)—Two Palestinian fighters were among eight people sentenced to death here Thursday for collaborating with the Iraqi occupiers of Kuwait.

The martial law court sentenced Palestinian brothers Ma'mun Mas'ud and Ayman Ma'mun Mas'ud for belonging to the Al-Nidal group, the Popular Struggle Front.

Saudi Arabia

Iranians on Hajj Plan To Protest U.S. Troops

AB2006173091 Dakar PANA in English 1701 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Mecca (Saudi Arabia), 20 June (NAN/PANA)—Iranians on pilgrimage to Mecca plan to stage more demonstrations to protest the presence of United States troops in Saudi Arabia.

An Iranian pilgrim told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA, NAN, on condition of anonymity that the placard-carrying demonstrators would be peaceful around the Holy Mosque and by the palace of the Saudi monarch. Reminded that more than 60 percent of the U.S. troops have been evacuated from Saudi Arabia, custodian of Muslim holy shrines, since the end of the Gulf war, the Iranian said: We want all of them to leave. Saudi Arabia provided a base for the US-led allied forces' assault that forced Iraq out of neighboring Kuwait which it invaded on 2 August 1990. Similar demonstrations in Mecca by the Iranians four years ago led to the killings of about 400 pilgrims, most of them Iranians. The incident led to the severance of ties between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Yemen

Official Denies Reports on Transfer of Jews

JN2106070391 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Telephone interview with 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Akwa', deputy information minister, by Muhammad al-Sharif; place and date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Al-Sharif] Mr. 'Abd-al-Rahman: There are some reports from U.S. and Israeli sources about attempts to transfer Yemen's Jews to occupied Palestine as was the case with Ethiopia's Jews. What is the truth?

[Al-Akwa'] Of course this is untrue. Many quarters have talked about it, though, in the Western press, especially American papers. Many powers usually try to stir up such matters. This matter is out of the question and untrue. Yemeni Jews live in the Republic of Yemen just as their Muslim brothers do. Recent rumors about a transfer are absolutely untrue. There are some Jews who emigrated in 1948 and hold a third citizenship—citizenship of a third country. These people have the right to visit Yemen since it is their original homeland. Some of them have visited the Republic of Yemen and lived with their brothers in certain areas, where Yemeni Jews live, and there have been no problems. [passage omitted]

Kurdish Officials Cable Congratulations to Saddam

JN2106104791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1008 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Jun (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received two congratulatory cables from the presidents of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region legislative and executive councils on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Adha.

The cable from Baha'-al-Din Ahmad, president of the Legislative Council, states: Our Kurdish people—who express their sincere nationalism and genuine Iraqi identity by entrenching the pillars of national unity, bolstering the ties of Arab-Kurdish fraternity, and effectively contributing to the march of construction and rebuilding in our glorious Iraq—stress that they genuinely adhere to your singular and historic leadership, and that they are an organic part of this beloved homeland. They also declare that they take pride in and highly praise your kind and continuing care for the Kurdistan region and its children and to the growing march of autonomy.

The cable from Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, president of the Executive Council, states: In these immortal days in the history of our people, when the Iraqi people—Arabs and Kurds—continue their great work to rebuild what the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression destroyed, we renew to Your Excellency the pledge of allegiance to remain loyal soldiers to the revolution, the homeland, and the great leader.

Schwarzkopf Statements on War Objectives Protested

JN2006133091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1944 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] The United Nations, 19 Jun (INA)—Iraq has informed the UN Security Council and UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar of the text of a statement made by General Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. troops in the Gulf, to the Zionist enemy radio on 29 April.

In a memorandum circulated to the UN Security Council and UN secretary general, the permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations said that Schwarzkopf's statement is an admission that reveals the purposes of the aggression and its true objectives, particularly the U.S. objectives against Iraq.

The Iraqi delegate said this admission, even though it does not reflect all the known facts, confirms that the objective was to crush the enemies of "Israel" and that the issue of Kuwait was a mere cover for intentions held long before 2 August 1990.

In his statement to the enemy radio, Norman Schwarzkopf said: I was concerned about eliminating Saddam Husayn himself rather than destroying the Iraqi military machine.

Schwarzkopf added: "Israel" gave us very valuable assistance in our war against Saddam Husayn. I do not want to reveal the exciting details. But, I would like to say that Israel gave us much more than we asked for. I am personally very satisfied with the mutual cooperation between Washington and Tel Aviv.

Schwarzkopf went on to say: The war our men waged against Saddam Husayn in the Gulf region was for the sake of "Israel." The men worked to crush your enemy, Israel's archenemy in the region.

Ramadan Says No Legality for 'Economic Siege'

JN1506071791 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 15 Jun 91 pp 1, 16

[Article by Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that it is a pity the Security Council has not performed its duty from the beginning of the Gulf crisis to the present.

The Iraqi vice president added in an exclusive interview with SAWT AL-SHA'B that we believe the Security Council did not perform in the required manner. He added, responding to a question on the Security Council's failure to take measures to lift the economic siege imposed on Iraq, that, in legal terms, we believe there has been no justification, for some time, to keep the economic siege on Iraq.

Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan's statements to SAWT AL-SHA'B were the first Iraqi high-level reaction to the Security Council's failure to lift the economic siege on Iraq after it implemented all Security Council resolutions.

Responding to another question to SAWT AL-SHA'B on the date for the withdrawal of U.S. and foreign troops in northern Iraq after reaching agreement with the Kurds, the Iraqi vice president said that so far, there is no date fixed for the withdrawal of the U.S. troops.

On his visit to Jordan, Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan said I am very happy to have had this opportunity to meet with His Majesty King Husayn and find him in good health. I will go back to Baghdad and convey this good news to his brother President Saddam Husayn. We ask God to protect His Majesty King Husayn and give him good health and long life.

Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan left Amman the day before yesterday after a short visit to Jordan during which he sought reassurance over His Majesty King Husayn's health. He was seen off by Prime Minister Mudar Badran; Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister; Tahir al-Masri, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izz al-Din; Iraq's Ambassador to Jordan Nuri al-Wayyis; and embassy staff.

Memo to UN Protests U.S. Aircraft Violations

JN2006133291 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] The permanent Iraqi representative to the United Nations has addressed a memorandum to the UN secretary general on the continued violations of Iraqi airspace by U.S. aircraft.

The permanent Iraqi representative noted that the U.S. air activities for 17 June 1991 totaled eight air sorties, made up of four formations. The aircraft flew at speeds of 600-720 km per hour and at low and medium altitudes. He said the U.S. flights centered over Mosul, Dahuk, and Zakho and were conducting missions of surveillance and harassment, he added.

Iranian Cease-Fire 'Violations' Reported to UN

JN2006133691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1128 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] New York, 20 Jun (INA)—Iran has continued to violate the cease-fire agreement with Iraq.

An INA correspondent in New York said Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations told the UN secretary general in a memorandum today that on 14 June, the Iranian side fired a missile toward Iraqi units at the new Qutaybah police post in the central sector in Iraqi territory.

On 15 June, the memorandum added, three Iranians were seen digging a firing position opposite Yathrib police post in the buffer zone in the central sector.

The memorandum added that on the same day, the Iranian side opened fire at a group of Iraqi soldiers at map coordinate 475216 in the same sector. The firing destroyed an Iva vehicle and a War one [names as received].

The memorandum stressed that these additional Iranian violations of the cease-fire provisions prove beyond doubt that the Iranian Government insists on and deliberately seeks to harm Iraq's sovereignty and security.

Iraq's representative at the United Nations asked that the memorandum be distributed as an official Security Council document.

Iraqi Officers Reportedly Killed in Coup Attempt

NC2006133991 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 19 Jun 91 p 9

[Text] AL-SAFIR has learned from diplomatic sources that there had been more than one coup attempt against Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's regime during the months following the Gulf war. These sources said that the most recent attempt occurred three weeks ago but failed like the previous ones after 18 senior Army officers, including a number of Republican Guard commanders, were killed.

Clandestine Reports Two Army Commanders Executed

NC2106060391 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 0442 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Confirming his criminal policy of taking revenge against those who differ with him, the criminal Saddam killed two senior Army commanders because they refused to obey his criminal orders to kill the innocent sons of our rebellious people.

Our news sources reported this. They said Major General 'Ismat Majid and Maj. Gen. Tariq 'Abduh [word indistinct] were executed in Baghdad by criminal 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the tyrant's cousin, after refusing to carry out Saddam's orders to kill the unarmed citizens in the northern cities during the uprising. The two Army commanders refused to implement Saddam's orders for the wholesale execution of hundreds of citizens in (Suq Kirmatu) and [word indistinct].

The new (?series of executions) will involve a large number of commanders who, following their return from defeat in the Kuwaiti war, refused to be dragged into the quagmire of the crime against the unarmed citizens.

Bodies of 50 Resistance Men Said Dumped in Tigris

NC2106055891 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Opposition in Arabic 0442 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] In an unprecedented, frightening, criminal act, and with the aim of terrorizing our rebellious people and deterring them from continuing the popular resistance, the criminal Saddamist regime, its mercenaries and butchers, have resorted to new methods of treacherous killing and physical annihilation.

The regime's butchers threw 50 of the uprising's strugglers in the Tigris River after placing them live in sealed bags. This ugly crime was committed in al-'Amarah in June.

On similar crimes, special reports from al-'Amarah said that one of the guards operating in an area overlooking the Tigris River said that he daily saw bags with human bodies—but with severed headsd—floating on the river's irrigation canal. A fisherman reported that while collecting fish from his net in the river between Qal'at Salih and al-'Amarah, he was surprised to see 19 human bodies trapped in his net. Eyewitnesses from nearby villages reported that they always see bodies in bags on the river banks near their villages. Some of the bodies discovered were of known heroes of the uprising. Bodies of women who took part in the uprising and were arrested by the regime also were discovered.

Freed British Engineer Departs Amman for Home

NC2106110191 Paris AFP in English 1049 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Amman, June 21 (AFP)—British engineer Douglas Brand flew home to freedom Friday at the end of a nine-month ordeal in Iraq, where he had been sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of espionage, a British diplomat said.

Mr. Brand, 51, was released Monday in Baghdad.

He arrived late Thursday in Jordan in an Iraqi Foreign Ministry car and was whisked away by British diplomats outside Iraq's Embassy in Amman.

The British engineer was arrested in September 1990 after trying to leave Iraq, following the invasion of Kuwait.

Shamir Adviser on Chances for Loan Guarantees

TA2006162191 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1400 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Studio interview with 'Amos Rubin, Prime Minister Shamir's economic adviser, by Dan Margalit—live]

[Text] [Margalit] Now let us discuss the $10 billion Israel hopes to receive as guarantees for immigrant absorption loans. This evening the U.S. Congress endorsed aid to Israel. If everything works out, Israel will get $3 billion. While this certainly is a lot of money, it is not all we were hoping for. However, the Bush administration has said over recent days that if Israel's settlement policy continues, this administration will not help Israel get these guarantees or loans. Jerusalem, nevertheless, remains quite optimistic. We hope to discuss this issue, and especially its economic aspects, with 'Amos Rubin, the prime minister's adviser on economic affairs. Good evening, Mr. Rubin.

[Rubin] Good evening.

[Margalit] What is the basis for your assessment that Israel will nevertheless receive the guarantees and the loans, which exceed the regular scope of aid?

[Rubin] I base it on two things, mainly on the deep U.S. involvement in the issue of Jewish immigration to Israel, especially from repressive regimes such as the Soviet Union or Ethiopia.

[Margalit] You mean erstwhile repressive regimes—when talking about the Soviet Union.

[Rubin] Well, democracy has not fully taken over yet. Let us hope [preceding two words in English]. However, one must remember that the Americans have already been involved in the struggle to allow the Soviet Jews to leave and to immigrate to Israel for 20 years, and they have done a great deal. I think that the President himself—I do not think: I know that the President himself and every secretary of state has pressured the Soviets at every meeting and used their economic influence—for example, withholding the most favored nation status from the Soviet Union for many years—in order to get the Soviet Jews out.

[Margalit] The President himself is definitely aware of that and he still—according to sources close to him and according to administration figures—will not support giving the guarantees to Israel if the current settlement policy continues, a policy which was further endorsed yesterday by the prime minister's statements.

[Rubin] You know, those quotes are not always accurate, and when they are presented over the Israeli media, they tend to become more harsh, extreme, and less cautious. I did not speak with the President, nor did he appear in public, nor did his spokesman come out with any statement; however, from reports of what the President told a group of orthodox rabbis, it transpires that he said that he would find it hard to support such a request—not, God forbid, that he would oppose it. Only that he would find it hard to support it if we direct Soviet immigrants to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip and continue building new settlements.

[Margalit] Excuse me for interrupting you, but according to the English translation I have here, this does not only deal with the immigrant issue. This says that the Bush administration will not support Israel's request—I am translating from the English—for loans and for guarantees if Israel continues the settlement drive [preceding word in English] in the territories. This is in English, it is not the Israeli media.

[Rubin] No, no, God forbid. I also have the REUTERS English translation with me. All I want to say is that before you were referring to the comments made by the President himself, and the President himself indeed stressed new settlements [preceding two words in English]. Now you are repeating the statement by an unnamed senior official, who was also quoted by REUTERS, and there it was, as you put it—if the new drive continues. These are mere nuances. The United States is well aware that the State of Israel is committed to a policy of Jewish settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. For its part, the United States is expressing the opinion that such settlements should not be rushed before we reach an explicit agreement with our Arab neighbors on Jewish settlement. However, we are already used to the fact that there are certain issues upon which we disagree with the United States, while there are other issues in which we have a common interest in close cooperation. The two issues do not always meet except on certain practical levels; for example, the U.S. demand, which we gladly and with much understanding have accepted, that we not use U.S. financial aid, whether military aid or funds given to help with immigrant absorption, beyond the territory that was under Israeli sovereignty on 4 June 1967....

[Margalit] Mr. Rubin, one more question. Even assuming that you are right, there is still a chance that you are wrong. If the United States does not give Israel either loans or guarantees for immigrant absorption loans—can Israel somehow manage and continue to absorb the immigration wave at its present level without any additional U.S. guarantees or loans?

[Rubin] Look, if we thought these U.S. guarantees made no difference [changes thought] ... by the way, these guarantees are designed only to raise money on the international market. It is not to get loans from the U.S. Government. These are guarantees that make it easier for us to recruit funds and to issue bonds.

[Margalit] But supposing we do not get them?

[Rubin] Just a minute. Let us remember that these are only guarantees. We are interested in receiving them because when you go to recruit money with a guarantee from the U.S. Government, you can get loans for a long period—up to 30 years and at low interest rates—and this is thanks to the U.S. Government's standing in the

international money market. Without a guarantee from the U.S. Government, recruiting such an amount of money or even a smaller sum would force us to accept conditions of a shorter loan period and higher interest rates. It is well worth our while to make an effort to get the U.S. guarantees. However, even if what I consider a very improbable possibility indeed comes to pass—we can still borrow the money, recruit investors, and issue bonds. Of course, this will be at less convenient prices and at less favorable conditions. But it is not all or nothing, nor black or white.

[Margalit] Thank you very much, Mr. Rubin.

Netanyahu: No Commitment Made to Halt Settlement

TA2106075091 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 21 Jun 91 p 1

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Text] Israel never made a commitment to the U.S. it would halt settlement in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday.

"There's an implication in the air that we have made a commitment that we're not fulfilling, and that is false," Netanyahu told visiting United Jewish Appeal missions assembled in Jerusalem.

His remarks came in response to a question on whether the U.S. planned to link granting Israel loan guarantees, some $10 billion of which are expected to be requested soon, to stopping housing construction in the territories.

"At no time did Israel say it would alter its plans in the territories, Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza (in order to secure the loan guarantees)," Netanyahu said.

The only commitment Israel has given to the U.S. is that new immigrants will not be directed to live in the territories, "although they are free to go there," he said.

Earlier this week, a senior Bush administration official said the U.S. was unlikely to grant the loan guarantees if Israel continues building in the territories.

Netanyahu said he "hoped" the Bush administration would not block the loans, but if it did "it would be a tragedy," because Israel badly needs the money.

The U.S. has an "humanitarian responsibility" to help finance the absorption of immigrants, particularly because the U.S. helped spearhead the effort to force the Soviet Union to allow the Jews to leave, Netanyahu said.

Housing Minister and Aliya cabinet head Ari'el Sharon told the gathering that yesterday 1,043 immigrants arrived, bringing the number of new arrivals to over 322,000 since the current wave of aliya began in 1989.

Arens Adviser Rejects DAVAR Report on Baker

TA2006170591 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 20 Jun 91

[Communicated by the Defense Ministry spokesman]

[Text] The defense minister's media advisor, Dani Nave, wishes to clarify that there is no substance whatsoever to the item appearing in DAVAR, today (Thursday), 20.6.91.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is always a welcome guest in Jerusalem. Defense Minister Moshe Arens will, in his upcoming meeting with U.S. Secretary of Defense Richard Cheney, discuss only defense matters, and will not refer to the political process at all.

Levi Urges Flexibility on Conference

TA2106082891 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Jun 91 pp 1, 4

[Report by Moti Basok and Pe'erli Shahar]

[Excerpts] The United States is pressuring Syria, through Egypt and the USSR, to moderate its positions in the answer it is due to send to President Bush in the coming days. Washington is also pressuring Israel to reassess its positions on three points stressed in Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's letter to President Bush three weeks ago. Shamir said he would be prepared to moderate his positions if Syria does so in its reply to Bush. [passage omitted]

In discussions with Shamir, Foreign Minister Levi recommended greater flexibility on the issue of the conference's continuity, based on the U.S. conditions that it will not be empowered to initiate or dictate anything and that Israel will have veto rights on its convocation. The prime minister, on the other hand, believes that Israel should wait until Syria responds to President Bush, because Shamir is not inclined to change his positions if the Syrian reply is negative.

If the Syrian response is positive, the Israeli positions might be tempered, in accordance with Syrian moderation, on the continuity of the conference and/or the passive attendance of a representative of the UN secretary general, on condition that the United States stands by its commitment that the Security Council will not adopt any anti-Israeli resolutions during the conference discussions.

Nevertheless, the prime minister does not plan to back down on his demand that Israel have a veto right over the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

The Likud is preparing to bring the general elections forward to early 1992, 'AL HAMISHMAR has learned from senior Likud sources. The sources believe that early elections may come about as a result of U.S. pressure regarding the peace process and/or a coalition crisis over issues related to SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim]

and immigrant absorption. The Likud says it is sure the Alignment will support early elections. [passage omitted]

Soviets Offer MiG-31's After Full Relations

TA2006174091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In the Soviets' meeting with Defense Minister Arens, the Soviets gave a presentation on the MiG-31 aircraft and asserted that they would be happy to sell it to Israel. This, however, could happen only after full diplomatic relations resume between the two countries. Our correspondent Gid'on Kouts reports:

[Begin Kouts recording] The Soviet minister's public announcement of the agreement to coproduce the Astra-4 executive jet took the directors of Israel Aircraft Industries by surprise. During a meeting at the Soviet pavilion, Vladimir Ivanov declared that this marked a new stage of favorable development in relations between Israel and the Soviet Union. We are launching a new and promising project—a coproduction of the Astra-4 executive jet. [passage omitted]

Minister Ivanov accompanied his Israeli guest to the exhibition of Soviet aircraft and there, next to the state-of-the-art MiG-31 model, a dialogue ensued that up to a short while ago could only have been considered surrealistic. The chief test pilot (Valeriy Pilitzky) enumerated the aircraft's advantages and really tried to sell it to Arens. Three such planes would be enough to cover Israel's air space, he said, adding that if Israel bought the plane from the Soviets it would receive all the operational codes. Arens surveyed the aircraft's missiles and engines as well as the interior of the amphibious B-42 aircraft. Afterwards, he spoke of his impression of the offer. [passage omitted] [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1700 carries an interview with Minister Arens by Michel Zlotowski recorded "a few minutes ago." Asked to assess his meeting with the Soviet minister, Arens replies: "To the extent that this is the first time in history that an Israeli defense minister has met with the Soviet minister of aviation industry, I suppose you might call this a breakthough, but I don't think that you should interpret this as bringing about any radical change in Israeli-Soviet relationships."

[Asked whether this meeting heralds the imminent restoration of diplomatic relations between Israel and the USSR, Arens replies: "I wouldn't try to attempt any correlation between the two. Attempts have been made by the Soviet Union to see if they could enter into commercial relations," Arens says, "and also to look into the possibility of some cooperative projects. So, I think this simply confirms something that we have known to exist during the past few months."

[Asked whether Israel and the USSR will soon coproduce a plane the defense minister answers: "I wouldn't exclude that possibility. I don't think that we can say anything definite at the moment, but it certainly is being looked at seriously by the Soviets and by Israel Aircraft Industries."]

Arens Doubts Israel Will Purchase Soviet Arms

TA2106060191 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens does not believe that Israel will buy Soviet arms because it has a sophisticated military industry of its own and has the option of buying the latest U.S. weaponry. Minister Arens thereby reacted with caution to Soviet Aviation Industry Minister Apollon Systsov's statement that once the two countries have full diplomatic relations, Israel will be able to purchase in Moscow any military equipment it wishes.

Al-Masri Chairs First Meeting, Lists Priorities

JN2006180491 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] The Council of Ministers has held its first session under Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri.

The prime minister welcomed the cabinet and said he hoped the meeting would be the beginning of serious and effective action to tackle the domestic and external challenges facing Jordan. He stressed the need to meet them through further action and efforts and with team spirit.

The prime minister said that the king's letter of designation constitutes a program of action for the government and represents a future perspective of the post-Charter phase. He added that efforts will continue to advance democracy and render political pluralism a success through the laws on parties and publications.

The prime minister said the government is open to all figures in the country and that it abides by constant Jordanian principles and seeks to achieve its objectives by adhering to the letter and spirit of the Constitution, by seeking guidance from the Jordanian National Charter, and by following the principles of international legitimacy.

The prime minister stressed the need to tackle urgent issues quickly, primarily unemployment and services; to stimulate the work of government agencies; and to study administrative reform.

The Council touched on these issues in general terms. It will discuss these and other issues in detail in future sessions.

Daily Profiles New Cabinet Members

JN2006081291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20 June 91 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Following are the profiles of the ministers who joined the new government:

Taysir Kan'an, minister of justice—Born in Nabulus in 1925, he obtained his secondary and law diplomas from Jerusalem, served at one time as head of a court in Jerusalem and later worked at the Court of Cassation and the Higher Court of Justice until 1989 when he was retired for political reasons. He told the JORDAN TIMES he would give due attention to the judicial system and the judges.

'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, ministry of industry, trade and supply—Born in Amman in 1946, he obtained a civil engineering degree from Tennessee, in U.S., in 1967. Worked at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment from 1967 to 1972 before turning to private business. He became president of the Jordanian Contractors Association from 1986 to 1990.

Dr. Subhi al-Qasim, minister of Agriculture—Born in Bal'a, near Tulkarm in 1934, he was educated in the United States. He received his B.A. degrees from Kansas and his Masters and Doctorate degrees from Minnesota University. From 1960 to 1965 he served in the Ministry of Agriculture and from 1965 to 1991 at the University of Jordan. He told the JORDAN TIMES that he would give due care to the farmers and investments in farming as he believes that appropriate climate helps to boost production.

Samir Qa'war, minister of water and irrigation—Born in al-Salt in 1934, he was educated in al-Salt and Amman and later in the United States where he graduated with a BSc degree in agricultural engineering from Arizona [as published] and Masters Degree in Kansas. He served in the Reconstruction Department and later turned his attention to business. He was elected Parliament member in the 1989 elections for the al-Salt constituency. In a statement to the JORDAN TIMES, Mr Qa'war said he planned to renew the water network in most regions and would pursue a programme for the development of underground water resources and dams to utilise surface water resources.

Ra'if Najm, minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs—Was educated in Jerusalem and later obtained a civil engineering degree from Cairo University in 1951. He worked abroad and for the Ministry of Public Works from 1966 to 1976, at al-Yarmuk University from 1976 to 1984. He was minister of public works between 1984-85. Later he ran an office for engineering consultancy services. Mr Najm is a member of the Committee for the Reconstruction of the Dome of the Rock.

Mamduh al-'Abbadi, health minister—Born in Amman in 1943, graduated from high school 1960, graduated from Istanbul University with a degree in medicine in 1966 and obtained a diploma in opthalmology from London in 1973. He served with the Health Ministry for 10 years before opening a clinic. He also served as president of the Jordanian Medical Association from 1987 to 1991. He told the JORDAN TIMES that he was keen on boosting public health services.

Salim al-Zu'bi, minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment—Born in Kharja, near Irbid in 1945, he studied law in Alexandria and graduated with a B.A. degree in 1986 and with Masters in Law in 1970. [years as published] Served in judicial posts from 1971 until 1977 and later practiced law. He was elected member of Parliament in the 1989 general elections.

'Ali Suhaymat, minister of transport—Born in al-Karak in 1936, he obtained his civil engineering degree from the American University of Beirut in 1960. He served in a number of posts, including the Ministry of Public Works and later a minister of transport from 1973 until 1976. He also served as minister of state for Prime Ministry affairs. Until his new appointment Mr. Suhaymat, served as Mayor of Amman.

Jawdat al-Subul, minister of interior—Born in al-Tafilah in 1932, he was educated in local schools before obtaining his university degree in law from the Arab University of Beirut in 1968. Mr al-Subul served in a number of posts here and in Abu Dhabi and for some time he worked as a legal advisor for a number of organisations and in senior positions at the Ministry of Interior. In 1989 he became governor of Amman.

'Awni al-Bashir, minister of social development—Born in al-Salt in 1956, he obtained his degree in medicine from Cairo University in 1980 and worked at al-Husayn Hospital in al-Salt. He was elected as member of the Lower House of Parliament in the 1989 general elections.

'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti, minister of tourism—Born in Amman 1949, he was educated at the Islamic College and at the University of Beirut, where he graduated with a B.A. degree in Business administration, and in Texas University. [sentence as published] He is a member of the Lower House of Parliament. He served in the field of tourism here and abroad and later served as minister of tourism in the Mudar Badran cabinet.

'Abdallah al-Nusur, foreign minister—Born in al-Salt in 1939, he was educated at the American University of Beirut and in the United States where he graduated with a Masters degree in 1965, and with a Doctorate degree from the Sorbonne University in Paris. He is member of Parliament, elected in the 1989 elections, and formerly served as minister of finance in the cabinet of Zayd al-Rifa'i. He also served as director of the Income Tax department and in several other posts here and abroad.

Dr. Salih Irshidat, minister of youth—Born in Irbid 1946, he completed his secondary education in Egypt before going to Germany where he obtained a Doctorate degree in civil engineering in 1965. He served as a consultant to major and regional firms in Jordan between 1980 and 1990. Dr. Irshidat is member of the Jordan Arab National Democratic Alliance (JANDA) and the Arab Human Rights Organisation.

Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah, minister of state—Born in 1941, he obtained a degree in law from the Arab University of Beirut in 1980. He worked as a lawyer and served as official at the Jordan Valley Authority between 1974-1979. Later he practiced law.

Dr. 'Id Duhayyat, minister of education—Born in 1945, he holds a PhD in English literature from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. He became professor of English literature at the University of Jordan in 1974, became minister of youth between 1986-1988, vice president of academic affairs at the University of Jordan between 1989-1990 and president of Amman Private University in 1990- 1991.

'Abd-al-Salam Furayhat, minister of state for parliamentary affairs—Born in 1935, he obtained a degree in law from the Arab University of Beirut in 1982. He served in the ministries of education and awqaf and was elected member in Parliament in 1989. He is member of the Independent Islamic Bloc, representing 'Ajlun constituency.

Muhammad al-Hammuri, minister of higher education—Born in Bayt Ra's, near Irbid, he studied law and obtained a doctorate degree from Cambridge University. He worked as dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Jordan between 1980 and 1988. He served as minister of culture in 1988-1989, and with the resignation of the cabinet of Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i returned to work as dean of law at the University of Jordan until now.

Analysts on New Cabinet Formation

JN2006131391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 20-21 Jun 91 pp 1, 8

[Report by Nirmin Murad, JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn Wednesday swore in a 25-member cabinet headed by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri. It was described by observers and analysts as one of the most liberal governments Jordan has had in many years of the Kingdom's political history.

The Cabinet—dominated by centrist, right-of-centre and left-of-centre politicians and technocrats—is a broad-based alliance of parliamentary and leftisit groups and independents that excluded the Muslim Brotherhood movement which has the single biggest bloc of deputies (23) in the 80-man Lower House of Parliament.

"In its final make-up and in the guidelines the King set for it, the formation of the new government should give a clear signal that the state is moving towards liberalism not conservatism, towards peace and progress and not strife and violence, and towards political pluralism and not a one-party state," one seasoned observer said.

"The King drew a red line for fundamentalist and ultrer [as published] conservatvie groups in the country telling them not to cross it because that would mean the destruction of what Jordan has always stood for," the observer, who did not want to be identified, added.

"By excluding the Muslim Brotherhood from the new cabinet, the palace and the new prime minister were basically drawing on Algeria's recent experience with the fundamentalists," a former minister said. "The message is clear in that Jordan will not tolerate that kind of violence and experience, and whoever does not want to play by the rules can ignore them at his own peril," he added. "But the latest moves might have also been necessitated by the crystallisation of a new approache to the Palestinian problem by Jordan."

The formation of the government in this shape and orientation signals a "new turn" towards political future for the country based on a liberal democracy which would allow for realism, openness and progress while

keeping an eye on developments in the Arab and international arenas, according to the observers and analysts who were interviewed by the JORDAN TIMES yesterday. They agreed that the "new blood" represented by the new cabinet is probably unprecedented since the late al-Sharif 'Abd-al-Hamid Sharaf formed his cabinet in December 1979.

"The King's appointment letter to Mr. al-Masri is a most important event in a decade of politics," said Tahir Hikmat a former minister. "It is a document that sets forth very clear and specific guideliness for Jordan's political future," Mr. Hikmat added.

He said that "in over a decade there has not been a change of personalities or even attitudes as this. What has taken place could mean a new course for the country, and a future premised on a liberal democracy that is open and realistic."

"If this government is able to hold out and implement the King's vision and programme it will draw the political map for long years to come. The stage is set for breaking the old taboos on procedures and to concentrate on strategy."

The credit for this change, analysts say, can be attributed to the King's "courage" in opening the doors for a modern state which would stress the benefits of internal unity and draws the red lines beyond which Jordan would not extend itself.

"The King took a historic decision. He looked at the vacuum in which Jordanian politicians have been operating aimlessly for years and decided to provide them with a vision for Jordan in the future," a former minister who is now a member of parliament said. "The change in government and the new outlook the King outlined yesterday are masterstrokes that Jordanians should be proud of."

Kamil Abu-Jabir, a political analyst and former minister, pointed to the King's appointment letter as a "meticulous and specific document which outlines the King's thinking on internal, regional and international policies."

"It is unusual in that it was very specific and gave a precedent in that it was a civilised step in the right direction," he added.

The King's message in his appointment letter, Dr. Abu-Jabir said, is very clear: Open the windows and doors to every idea there is."

Mr. Hikmat said that the importance of the appointment letter "was even more significant than the appointment of a new government because it was precise in defining Jordnaian political activity for now and in the future."

"The choice was democracy which is based on a coalition of a number of parties which belong to the centre, left-of-centre and right-of-centre," Mr. Hikmat said.

"Institutionalising this choice, in my opinion, will allow for the picking of the fruits of the democratic experiment without suffering from its negative aspects," he said.

Dr. Abu-Jabir pointed to the make-up of Mr. al-Masri's administration as a "very good government of centrists and nationalists."

"One of the best things about it is that it brings in new blood an new faces. It can create an atmosphere of new ideas and debate."

But, he said, it maintained its traditional positive mix of "Jordanians and Palestinians, north and south and the parliament."

With this new vision and new blood, analysts said, it becomes obvious that the mission of Mr. al-Masri's government is not to "sign a peace agreement" with Israel as was claimed by the Brotherhood movement but to maintain Jordan's principled position towards the Middle East problem.

The main task of this government, other analysts insist, is to allow a new liberal attitude to take control of official thinking in a manner which would encourage innovativeness and creativity in dealing with Jordan's internal problems and help it along the path of democracy.

Jordanian politicians and deputies interviewed yesterday generally agreed that the translation of the elements embodied in the King's appointment letter would require the government to "take example from the King's courage in opening the doors, lighting the way for a modern state."

Mr. Hikmat said "the King has provided the government with a work programme, if God gives it strength its achievements will be great." This may well be a new era for Jordan.

Increase in Annual Trade With Iraq Discussed

JN2006061891 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Jun 91 p 32

[Text] AL-RA'Y has learned that one of the most important points discussed by the Iraqi economic delegation, currently on a visit to Jordan under Iraqi Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and officials in the Industry and Trade Ministry was to increase trade between the two countries to reach $1 billion per year.

Buwayz on Palestinians, Resolution 425, Syria

NC2006131391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] In an interview with the Egyptian AL-MUSAWWAR magazine, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz stressed that the Lebanese state is fully prepared to reach an understanding with the Palestinians in a manner that will guarantee their security, physical presence and place in society.

He said that Israel's continued presence in south Lebanon will obstruct the peace process. He called on the international community to implement Resolution 425 as soon as possible, but rejected raising this issue at any regional peace conference.

Regarding the treaty of distiguished relations with Syria, Minister Buwayz said that it is generally regarded as an example of Syria's recognition of Lebanon's independence. He added that Israel tries to exploit any developments to cover up its position that obstructs the peace process in Lebanon.

SLA Comments on Army Deployment in South

JN1906113691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1002 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Interview with General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, by Shafiq Mansur; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mansur] Your Excellency General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA], we have heard a statement by Lebanese Defense Minister Michel al-Murr that the Lebanese Army will deploy in the south along the security strip. What is your excellency's position on this measure?

[Lahd] We do not object to its deployment along Jazzin or the security zone. We will not attack the army at all unless they attack us. If they do so, then something else will happen. However, we are not willing to attack the army when it is outside our zone.

[Mansur] Your excellency general, it is well known that there are 10,000 Palestinian fighters between Sidon and Tyre. They have not yet surrendered their weapons to the Lebanese Army. What do you think of this?

[Lahd] This is the Lebanese Army's problem, not ours. Whether they want to collect the weapons or not and how, this is their problem, not ours.

[Mansur] But if the organizations carried out any assaults and the SLA replied in kind, the Lebanese Army will have to intervene.

[Lahd] We will decide on any event when it happens. If the Lebanese Army or the saboteurs attack us, we will reply to any hostile acts against us.

[Mansur] What, Your Excellency, do you think of the Cairo agreement?

[Lahd] I have no comment.

[Mansur] What about the incident yesterday—or the day before yesterday—with the arrival of saboteurs at Ra's al-Naqurah area and what has been said about collaboration of SLA soldiers with them?

[Lahd] We had an individual who collaborated with them, and he was killed with those who were killed in the operation. Anyway, this happens with all the armies in the world. You usually have traitors, and he was one of those.

[Mansur] A final question, if you please, concerning the deployment of the Lebanese Army. If the Lebanese Army attempts to enter the Jazzin area, how will you react?

[Lahd] I do not think it will try to do so unless we have an agreement with it.

[Mansur] Are you considering such an agreement?

[Lahd] It is premature to say that there is or there is not an agreement. It is premature because no one has contacted us yet in this regard.

[Mansur] Your Excellency General Antoine Lahd, thank you very much.

[Lahd] Thank you.

Lahd Denies Willingness To Hand Over Jazzin

NC2106090291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Staff Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army, today denied a statement attributed to him that he does not object to handing over the Jazzin area to the Lebanese Army. He asserted that no one has made a proposal to him in this connection.

PLO Reportedly Agrees To Partial Withdrawal

NC2006122591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] REUTER today cited officials as saying that the PLO has agreed to withdraw its fedayeen from part of southern Lebanon and to permit the government forces to control that area.

Speaking to REUTER, Minister Muhsin Dallul said that the various groups in Sidon have approved the government's plan for the Army's deployment. Dallul added that his meetings with the Lebanese and Palestinians in Sidon have been successful and that they have agreed to the Army's deployment in Sidon and its eastern areas. He said that the Army will deploy in all positions currently under militia control and will be the only force present in these areas. If the Army is deployed next

month according to plan, the Lebanese Army will take up positions opposite those of Lahd's militia in the town of Jazzin.

Meanwhile, official sources have said that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with the Palestinian commanders in Sidon before they spoke with the government and asked them to fully cooperate with the Lebanese authorities.

PLO, SLA Withdrawal From Jazzin Linked

NC2006172191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] At a time when Agriculture Minister Muhsin Dallul has stressed that the Palestinians are prepared to facilitate the Lebanese Army's deployment in the Sidon area, AFP has cited Palestinian sources in Sidon as saying that the PLO does not want to withdraw its fighters from east of Sidon before the South Lebanese Army [SLA] withdraws from Jazzin.

Moreover, while an expanded meeting of the Islamic grouping, which took place today at the home of Nasirite Popular Organization leader Mustafa Sa'd today, said that the Kafr Falus front is the forward position of the resistance movement, which must continue to fulfill its mission, Minister of State Nazih al-Bizri emphasized that the Lebanese Army will become responsible for Kafr Falus after the deployment.

Army Deployment, Weapons Hand-Over Postponed

NC2106064291 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Excerpts] The Lebanese-Palestinian talks that Minister Muhsin Dallul has been conducting with representatives of the Palestinian factions have been postponed until after the 'Id al-Adha holiday the middle of next week. This brings the resumption of the talks to a date that precedes the Lebanese Army's scheduled deployment in Sidon by only a few days. Complications and obstacles, not the 'Id al-Idha holiday, apparently caused the postponement of the negotiations to this date, according to information leaked after the first round of talks.

These obstacles that confronted the Lebanese negotiator in Sidon made it necessary for Minister Dallul to visit Damascus yesterday. He met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and some Syrian military officials. He returned to his home in 'Ali al-Nahri township in al-Biqa' in the afternoon.

The obstacles to the negotiations can be summarized under three topics. First, there are political obstacles. The Palestinians are insisting on raising the level of negotiations to that of an official dialogue with the Lebanese state to reach a comprehensive agreement on security, political, and social issues in the context of what they regard as the Palestinian people's rights in Lebanon. They want these rights to be enshrined in something resembling a treaty between the State of Palestine and the Lebanese state. The Palestinians regarded their meeting with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in Cairo in mid-May as the beginning of an official dialogue and believe that it must continue on the same level, not at the committee level. They believe that the decision to let Salah Salah [envoy of the Palestinian leadership in Tunis] participate in the talks was made on this basis.

While the Palestinians assert that they cannot be placed before a fait accompli in connection with the Lebanese Army's deployment in Sidon, they are linking the handover of their weapons to holding an official dialogue with the Lebanese Government and to the existing situation in the Jazzin area. They are asking for agreements and guarantees from the Lebanese state that will deal with all their demands and, consequently, they are refusing to hand over their weapons to the Lebanese Army.

As to the practical obstacles that surfaced during the first session of talks on the actual deployment of the Army, this has come in the form of a demand to allow the Palestinians to maintain military positions outside their camps, and they want logistics operations between these positions and the camps to be facilitated. They also set the condition that the Lebanese military presence should not commit provocations in the areas adjacent to the camps.

The inter-Lebanese talks between Dallul and the Nasirite Popular Organization [NPO] were equally difficult. The NPO has insisted on maintaining its forces on the Kafr Falus front in the context of what it termed its right to conducting resistance operations. In practical terms, this means that the NPO is demanding to keep its weapons, under the resistance slogan, and not hand them over to the Lebanese Army. In this political context, one can understand the explosive factors that prevailed last night and this morning on the Lib'a-'Ayn al-Mir-Kafr Falus combat lines where clashes, described by security reports as violent, have been taking place. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the mediator Muhsin Ibrahim [leader of the Lebanese Communist Action Organization] has stated that the Lebanese Government has delayed more than necessary the opening of a direct and official political dialogue with the PLO. He said the PLO still has a positive attitude regarding what the Lebanese authorities want it to do in connection with the establishment of the Lebanese Government's authority over all Lebanese territory. Ibrahim added, however, that he does not expect a Palestinian-Lebanese showdown in southern Lebanon as long as the decision to maintain political contacts between the two sides holds and as long as Syria approves of it.

PLO Representative on Army Deployment in Sidon

NC2106095391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Salah Salah, the representative of the PLO leadership in Lebanon, has announced that an agreement was reached during the Palestinian delegation's meeting with Minister Muhsin Dallul and Major General Nabih Farhat [director of state security] to form a joint Lebanese-Palestinian military committee to facilitate the Lebanese Army's expected deployment in Sidon and its environs and avoid any pitfalls that might lead to misunderstandings.

In an exclusive interview with our radio, Salah expressed surprise at the delay in beginning an official Lebanese-Palestinian dialogue, particularly as the Palestinians wished the meetings held in Cairo between the two sides to mark the beginning of a lasting dialogue. He noted that in those meetings several issues connected with the Palestinian presence were raised. He said the Palestinian side regarded those issues as forming the basis of the agenda of future meetings and a permanent dialogue.

Salah added: So far such a dialogue has not been arranged in the form and at the level we wish, although some preliminary meetings were held with Minister Dallul.

The PLO leadership's representative in Lebanon said the issue of Palestinian weapons hinges on attaining agreement on two points: First, the camps' security, particularly in light of previous bitter experiences such as the Tall al-Za'tar, Sabra and Shatila, and other massacres; and second, the Israeli occupation forces, which pose a constant threat to the Palestinian camps.

He noted that those who can exercise pressure on Israel are not showing any willingness to do so to implement Resolution 425, and this means there is no guarantee that Israel will withdraw from southern Lebanon. He said he believes that Israel will not hesitate to choose a suitable moment to conduct a hostile action through an intensive aerial and artillery bombardment to demolish the Palestinian resistance's infrastructure so it cannot confront attack. He added it is not to be ruled out that Israel, either directly or by using Lahd as a front, will occupy some positions east of Sidon or in western al-Biqa'. He said it might do this not to keep these positions permanently, but to use them as bargaining chips either to force a withdrawal of Palestinian weapons or exert pressure on the Lebanese Government and involve it in a conflict with the Palestinians under the guise of withdrawing Palestinian weapons.

Violent Clashes East of Sidon; City Shelled

NC2106051691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0430 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] According to reports from the south this morning, violent clashes began at midnight last night on the Lib'a-'Ayn-al- Mir-Kafr Falus combat lines and continue. Our correspondent in Sidon has reported that at 0545 today the Lahd militia extended the range of its shelling and bombarded the city's residential areas and the nearby camps. Security sources have said that more than 10 155- mm shells fell in Sidon's market area and Harat Sayda, and that four shells fell in the area behind the Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd boulevard opposite the sea.

A military source in the Nasirite Popular Organization said: While clashes were taking place on the Lib'a-'Ayn-al-Mir-Kafr Falus lines, Sidon's residential areas were suddenly subjected to a violent bombardment by long-range 155-mm artillery.

The source did not say whether there had been any casualties. He affirmed that the Martyr Ma'ruf Sa'd's forces of the Popular Liberation Army were responding to the shelling and engaging the sources of fire with the appropriate weapons to silence them.

Islamic Resistance Destroys Lahd Position

NC2106102291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] The Islamic resistance has announced that it used Katyushas to attack and destroy a position held by Lahd's militiamen in (Qasr Salim) on the Kafr Falus front at dawn today. The Islamic resistance has also launched an attack on a joint Israeli-agents patrol east of Sidon.

A statement issued by the resistance said that one of its groups attacked the joint patrol that consisted of an M-113 armored car vehicle and a number of military jeeps this morning. The group deluged the patrol with machine-gun and rocket fire, killing or wounding its members. The statement said the occupation forces combed the area following the operation and used mortars to shell the villages of Kafr Jarrah and Kafr Hatta and the vicinity of Sidon, causing only property damage.

'Arafat Backers Reportedly Detain FRC Members

NC2006172091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Fatah-The Revolutionary Council [FRC] has accused 'Arafat supporters of raiding the homes of FRC members and supporters in Shabriha and detaining several of them.

FRC spokesman Walid Khalid said that more than 125 'Arafat supporters, who were brought into the camp from outside, opened fire inside the camp. They also rounded up a number of the camp's residents and carted them off to the al-Qasimiyah camp.

Paper Notes 'Optimism' on Hostage Release

NC2006121391 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 12 Jun 91 pp 1, 15

[Report by the TEHRAN TIMES city desk: "Hectic Activity on Release of Hostages"]

[Text] Tehran—Hectic activities for the release of the Western hostages are continuing in the Lebanese capital, reports reaching here from Beirut said yesterday.

According to a report received here from our correspondent in Beirut, optimism is expressed by many observers there that one or two Western hostages may be released in the near future.

Our correspondent, quoting reliable sources in that Mediterranean country, declined to say the exact date or dates for the release of the hostages and their nationality.

Talking on the phone our correspondent told the TEHRAN TIMES, "What information gathered by me here indicates that the hostages are to be released in the near future."

He declined to be exact on the release and said, "Those who are involved in the hectic activities are not ready to be identified by name." He said it 'may be that one or two American hostages may be released'.

"I really do not know exactly. What I'm saying is from impressions I got from the talks of certain people here," he said.

Going into details he said, "I have the impression that certain groups who hold the Western hostages have decided to act unilaterally on humanitarian grounds."

He said that in this way these groups want to throw the ball in the court of the Western countries for them to put pressure on Israel to set hundreds of Muslims free from captivity of the Zionists.

The TEHRAN TIMES contacted an official of the Foreign Ministry in Tehran who withheld his comments saying "they really do not have any information on the subject."

In the past, however, Iran has tried to obtain the release of all hostages irrespective of their nationality, on humanitarian grounds and succeeded in getting several hostages out from captivity.

President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani repeatedly said that Iran will continue its efforts for the release of all hostages irrespective of their nationality, including Muslims in Israel, on humanitarian grounds.

Hostage Release Atmosphere Reportedly 'Suitable'

NC2106094691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has stated that the atmosphere in the area is suitable for the release of the hostages. He added, however, that there are numerous obstacles that preclude a successful outcome to this matter. He revealed that he has made undeclared efforts to secure the release of the hostages.

Regarding visits to the Lebanese prisoners in al-Khiyam detention camp, Shams-al-Din said: We and the Red Cross have not yet achieved any result.

Official Reveals Attempted Hostage 'Swap'

NC2106111591 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1030 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shiite Council, has revealed that an attempt was made to conduct a three-way swap deal to exchange the Arab prisoners in Israeli occupation prisons, the remains of Israeli soldiers [held by groups in Lebanon], and the [Western] hostages.

He said: By such a deal we can resolve several problems. We continue to submit this initiative.

In an exclusive interview with our radio, Shams-al-Din remarked that current reports on the issue show that there is exaggerated optimism regarding the release of the hostages.

He added: We believe that responsibility for the prisoners held by Israel requires us to seek every way to secure their release. These prisoners include Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, Suha Bishara, and others.

Addressing those responsible for holding the foreign hostages and the regional parties that might be supporting them, he said: We have borne considerable injustice and major moral and political losses because of these hostages. We condemn their kidnapping and imprisonment.

Shams-al-Din emphasized the need to conduct a three-way prisoner swap, adding: I believe that releasing the hostages without such a deal and without achieving any benefit for the [Arab] prisoners will be an insult to these prisoners and their families.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Calls on U.S. To Rehabilitate Country

BK2106075091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0744 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Report by Anosh Ahamath]

[Text] Kabul, June 21 (AFP)—President Najibullah says the United States should help Afghanistan revive its war-devastated economy instead of providing military assistance to the Mujahidin resistance.

In an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE Thursday, Mr. Najibullah said the Afghan people expected a major economic power such as the United States to help Afghanistan economically.

"We expect that the U.S., instead of continuing its military assistance to the Afghan opposition, should assist our people in reaching a political settlement and economic rehabilitation of our country," he said.

The president welcomed reports that this year Washington might not renew its military aid to the Peshawar-based mujahidin resistance, which is opposed to his Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

He said if the U.S. did suspend aid to the resistance it would be "a practical step towards the termination of the war and restoration of peace."

"The United States should have found in practice that continuing its militaristic policy of arming and equipping Afghan forces cannot resolve the conflict. Therefore it is reasonable to move towards a political settlement," he said.

The United States and Pakistan, the mujahidin's main supporters, have welcomed a U.N. plan for a political solution to the 12-year- old Afghan conflict, which has left more than one million dead and created five million refugees.

The plan calls for a cease-fire and a transitional period to prepare for elections.

The Soviet Union, Kabul's main military and economic supplier, also supports the U.N. initiative, which envisages both Moscow and Washington cutting down military aid to forces in Afghanistan.

Some moderate mujahidin factions want to clarify certain points in the plan before airing their views, but three fundamentalist resistance groups have already rejected it.

President Najibullah said he hoped the United States and Pakistan would put pressure on these extremist groups to agree to a political settlement under the U.N. plan and refrain from continuing "their futile, fratricidal war."

"The forces and elements that are rejecting the plan and are chanting the slogans of war should realise that the rays of peace and tranquility will illuminate their nation very, very soon," Mr. Najibullah said.

He said negotiations and contacts would begin shortly with "peace-seeking forces" and the dialogue would bring "distinctive results," but did not elaborate.

The president also said his ruling Watan (Homeland) Party was not afraid of change or any process in the interests of the cessation of war and the creation of an atmosphere of understanding between Afghans.

Mr. Najibullah said the party was not only prepared to bring about the necessary changes in political structure, "but has also proved to the world and to our people that it is sincerely prepared to change its program and abandon a monopoly of power."

Vice President Receives SSR Delegation

LD2006132791 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 19 Jun 91

[Text] Kabul, June 18, BAKHTAR—Abdul Hamid Muhtat, vice-president of the Republic of Afghanistan, met in his office today with the Turkmen SSR [Soviet Socialist Republic] Komsomol delegation headed by R. Habibullah, first secretary of Komsomol, reports press office of Prime Ministry to BAKHTAR.

The Afghan vice-president, talked about the historical roots of traditional, religious, humane and cultural relations between the peoples of Afghanistan and Turkmen SSR and expressed hope that these relations would further expand in the future. 'Abdul Hamid Muhtat also stressed on the further consolidation of scientific and cultural relations between the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] and Turkmen SSR. He added that the Republic of Afghanistan expects that such relations be further strengthened between Afghanistan youth union and Turkmanistan Komsomol.

Reciprocally, the head of the guest delegation said that the leadership of Turkmanistan Republic is always desirous of expanding relations in different scientific, cultural and economic spheres with the neighbouring countries like Afghanistan, Iran and Turkey. He added that we are ready to prepare a draft protocol for the expansion of friendly relations and cooperation with the youth union of Afghanistan with the implementation of which the friendly desires of both sides will be fulfilled.

Besides, Lt. Gen. Asadulah Payam, chairman of Political Affairs Dept of the Interior Ministry met, with a Turkmen SSR Komsomol delegation currently visting Afghanistan, in his office on June 17, 1991.

During the meeting Payam informed the guest delegation on the work and activities of youth functioning in the RA Interior Ministry.

At the end, members of the delegation called on the museum of honours of that Ministry.

Protocol of Cooperation Signed

LD2006214991 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0514 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Kabul, June 19, BAKHTAR—A protocol of cooperation between the Central Council of the Afghanistan Youth Union (AYU) and the Central Committee of the Komsomol of the Soviet Union was concluded today in Kabul, reports a BAKHTAR correspondent.

The protocol was signed from the Afghan side by Mohammad Ebrahim, chairman of the AYU, and from the Soviet side by Duraev Habibullah, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Komsomol of the Turkmen Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR].

In the protocol exchanges of cultural, artistic, journalistic and sport delegations, convocation of exhibitions, conferences, and joint seminars, starting research on the acute problems of youth movement, providing grounds for recreational facilities and rest of children and teenagers and maintaining direct relations between the youth union of Herat, Afghanistan and the Komsomol of (?Ashkhabad) of the Turkmen SSR have been envisaged.

Report adds, the said Soviet delegation who had arrived recently in Kabul for a series of working visits, left Kabul for home today.

India

Elections Postponed in 'Trouble-Torn' Punjab

Date for Election Set for September

BK2106011091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Elections in Punjab have been postponed by more than three months. The decision was taken by the Election Commission early this morning. Polling was to take place tomorrow in the trouble-torn state. The new date of polling in all the parliamentary and assembly constituencies in the state is the 25th of September. According to the notification issued by the commission, the election process will be completed by the 30th of September. A press note issued by the commission said that it is not possible to conduct a free and fair poll in Punjab because of the prevailing circumstances. Our correspondent says that the three Lok Sabha candidates and 21 assembly candidates are among several people killed in the state since the announcement of the poll. Some political parties boycotted the election in the state on the ground that a smooth poll is not possible at this stage. The Congress-I which is forming the government at the center today had consistently opposed elections in Punjab at the present juncture.

Shekhar Criticizes Poll Delay

BK2106082291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] The left parties have welcomed the postponement of Punjab elections. The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] leader, Mr. Harkishan Singh Surjeet, said if the decision have been taken earlier many lives there have been saved. The CPI [Communist Party of India] secretary, Mr. Farooqi, described the decision as belated but good.

The president of the Akali Dal Theruman, Mahant Sevadas Singh, has also welcomed the decision. However, the outgoing prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, termed the decision as dangerous and said the move would have far reaching consquences.

The Samajwadi Janata Party has opposed the postponement of Punjab elections. The party spokesman, Mr. H.P. Malviya, said in New Delhi today that the decision to hold the elctions was taken by the Chandra Shekhar government after considering the demand of the people in Punjab.

The Punjab unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has also criticized the postponement of elections. In a statement in Chandigarh today, the president of the BJP state unit said the chief election commissioner should have convened a meeting of all political parties before taking the decision.

Rao To Become Leader of Congress-I Party

MP's Asked to Support Rao

BK2006120291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao is to be the leader of the Congress-I Parliamentary Party [CPP-I]. He is to be formally elected at the meeting of the CPP-I in the Central Hall of Parliament later this evening. The consensus in favor of Mr. Narasimha Rao emerged after a series of informal consultations senior leaders had by the newly elected party MP's and Mr. Sharad Pawar, who was reported to be in the race for the party leadership, cleared the decks with an appeal to all members to unanimously support Mr. Narasimha Rao.

In an informal chat with newsmen, Mr. Rao expressed happiness over the consensus in the party on the leadership issue. Senior party leader and Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Mr. N. Janardhana Reddy, has said that the Congress-I has proved that it can tackle any issue amicably and democratically. Mr. Sharad Pawar might have withdrawn from the race in the interest of the party.

Mr. Sharad Pawar in a statement said his demand for ascertaining the views of the party MP's was only for affirmation of democratic principles in the functioning of the Congress-I. He was happy that his suggestion was accepted by the party president.

Our correspondent understands that immediately after the CPP-I meeting, the Congress-I will formally stake its claim to form the new government. A formal letter is expected to be sent to the president, Mr. Venkataraman, in this regard.

Rao Formally Elected

BK2006124091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao is the new leader of the Congress-I Parliamentary Party [CPP-I]. The CPP-I met in the Central Hall of Parliament this afternoon and unanimously elected Mr. Narasimha Rao amid thumping of desks by members. Mr. Arjun Singh proposed the name of Mr. Narasimha Rao which was seconded by Mr. Shiv Shankar, Mr. N.K.P. Salve, Mrs. Sheila Kaul, Mr. Shankaranad, Mr. A.R. Antulay, and Mr. P.A. Sangma. The meeting was presided over by the treasurer of the AICC-I [All India Congress-I Committee], Mr. Sita Ram Kesari.

Rao To Be Sworn in

BK2006161391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao is to be sworn in as prime minister tomorrow. Mr. Rao told newsmen a short while ago at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] that he has been invited by the president to form the government. He called on Mr. Venkataraman after his unanimous election as leader of the Congress-I Parliamentary Party [CPP-I]. Mr. Rao said that he has been asked by the president to prove his majority in the Lok Sabha within four weeks. He said the swearing in will be some time in the afternoon.

Replying to questions, Mr. Rao said that he will decide whether he would be sworn in alone or with a team. About seeking support from other parties, he said we have noted the views expressed by others and are studying them.

Rashtrapati Bhavan sources told our correspondent that earlier the secretary of the CPP-I, Mr. Chandra Shekhar Reddy, met Mr. Venkataraman. A Congress-I spokesman said that he delivered a letter to the president, conveying that the CPP-I had unanimously elected Mr. Rao as its leader.

Our correspondent says the election of Mr. Narasimha Rao as the CPP-I leader this evening led to a flurry of activities around Rashtrapati Bhavan which climaxed with the announcement that Mr. Rao is to be the next prime minister.

Rao Asked To Establish Majority

BK2106014891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Mr. P.V. Narasimaha Rao is to be sworn in as prime minister today. The president, Mr. Venkataraman, has appointed Mr. Rao as the prime minister and invited him to form the government at the center. Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] communique issued last night has asked Mr. Rao to establish his majority within four weeks. The communique said that the president invited Mr. Rao as he is the leader of the largest party in the Lok Sabha. A letter to this effect was handed over by the president personally to Mr. Narasimha Rao who called on him last evening following his unanimous election as leader of the Congress-I Parliamentary Party. The swearing-in will take place this afternoon. All India Radio will broadcast a running commentary on the swearing-in ceremony from 1245 p.m. [0715 GMT]. This will be available on Delhi-B and additional frequencies including RN Channel-four.

Congress-I Falls Short of Absolute Majority

BK2006132091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] In the elections to the 10th Lok Sabha, results of 503 seats have been declared so far. The elections were held in 511 constituencies. Two more results are awaited from Assam. The Election Commission has withheld the results of five constituencies in Bihar and one in Karnataka. With only eight results yet to come in, the Congress-I is still running short of an absolute majority. The party and its allies—such as the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham], Muslim League, and the Janata Dal- Gujarat—have together bagged 237 seats. For obtaining an absolute majority, they need 19 more seats. The National Front-Left Front combine together with their ally—JMM [Jharkhand Mukti Morcha]—have got 128 seats. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and Shiv Sena combine have secured 123 seats. The Congress-I has emerged as the single largest party with 223 of its candidates elected to the Lok Sabha. The BJP comes second with 119 seats, the Janata Dal follows with 53 victories.

BJP Decides Not To Support Congress-I

BK2006132291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, has ruled out his party's support to the Congress-I from outside, but said on national issues, however, it will be a different matter. Talking to our correspondent in New Delhi, he said the BJP will function as an effective opposition as mandated by the people.

BJP Secures Absolute Majority in State Assembly

BK2006133491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] has secured an absolute majority. Of 400 results declared so far, the BJP has bagged 209, followed by Janata Dal 90, Congress 45, SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party] 30, BSP [Bahujan Samaj Party] 12, CPI [Communist Party of India] four, Soshit Samaj Dal, and CPI-M [Communist

Party of India-Marxist] one each, and independents and others eight. Four results are yet to come in.

The BJP is to form its first ever government in the state by Monday. The newly elected party MLA's [members of legislative assembly] are meeting in Lucknow on Saturday to elect their leader. This was announced by the party spokesman, Mr. K.R. Malkani, in New Delhi today after a meeting of the Central Parliamentary Board. While, Mr. Malkani said, it is for the state legislators to choose their leader, Mr. Kalyan Singh is said to be the forerunner for the leadership. He was the leader of the BJP in the dissolved house.

Prime Minister Shekar Addresses Nation

BK2006164091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Message to the nation by Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar on 20 June; place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] My fellow citizens. We have almost completed the process of democratic elections in this country. It is an experiment which has been successful for last four decades in this country. Recently, there was apprehension in the mind of some people in this country and outside that democratic process will be eclipsed in this nation. But, you by your judgment and maturity have once more expressed to the people of the whole world that the roots of democracy are deep in this country. I am glad that all of you have shown the courage and [word indistinct] conviction. There have been some problems in certain parts of the country, but this is bound to be in such a large nation. By and large, the people have shown their sense of responsibility and duty toward the future of this country.

I know that there are certain elements in this country who are trying to create an atmosphere of discord in the name of religion and caste. It is not the atmosphere of confrontation, but a spirit of reconciliation which is going to lead us out from this crisis. We have to face the economic challenges of today. We must remember one thing. A country of India's size cannot be bailed out only by outside help. We shall have to depend upon ourselves. Everybody will have to make sacrifice, everybody will have to make contribution. Austerity is not mere slogan; it is a strategy. We will have to cut our coat according to our cloth. I hope and trust that people in this country will be ready to make sacrifice in order to keep the dignity and honor of this nation. I am glad that people understand the challenges of today and the new government will be able to take recourse to the measures which will involve the people's cooperation, because without the willing cooperation of the people, it is not possible to bring a bright future for this country. Let us remember that willing cooperation is only possible when we assure the people that whatever they produce will go to meet the basic minimum needs of their children. Let us move in that direction. Let us hope to bring about a new tomorrow for the children of those who have been exploited and oppressed for long. I hope and trust that by united action, by cohesive effort, we shall be able to tide over the present crisis. I am grateful to you for the confidence, for the cordiality, and for the affection that you have extended to me. I wish you all a very bright future. Jai Hind [Hail India].

Demonstrators Want End to Pakistan Interference

BK2006164891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Hundreds of demonstrators protested outside the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi today, condemning Islamabad's interference in Jammu and Kashmir. The demonstrators belonging to the Jamaat Intezamia Masjid, Madarsa, Qabristan [Muslim Organization] warned Pakistan of serious consequences if it does not stop its interference in the state. The protesters presented a memorandum to the Pakistan high commissioner, urging Islamabad to adopt a friendly attitude as the Muslims in India would not tolerate any manipulations by Pakistan in Kashmir in the name of religion.

Continuing Coverage on Lok Sabha Election

Update on Election

BK2106040691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] In Assam, the Congress-I candidate, Mr. Khirip Saikia, has won the Lok Sabha seat from Guwahati. He defeated his nearest NGP [New Gana Parishad] rival, Mr. Ashraf Ali, by a margin of over 47,000 votes. Here is the latest party-wise position: Elections held: 511 Results declared: 507 Congress-I: 225 Bharatiya Janata Party: 119 Janata Dal: 55 Communist Party of India-Marxist: 35 Communist Part of India: 13 Samajwadi Janata Party: five Bahujan Samaj Party: one others: 54

Tenth Lok Sabha 'Duly Constituted'

BK2106033691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] The 10th Lok Sabha has been duly constituted. The Election Commission notification in this regard was submitted to the president, Mr. Venkataraman, in New Delhi last evening. The chief election commissioner, Mr. Seshan, who called on the president also submitted a list of newly elected representatives from 502 Lok Sabha Constituencies.

BJP To Initiate Dialogue on Shrine Issue

BK2106090391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader from Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Kalyan Singh, has said his party's government in the state will initiate a fresh dialogue with Muslim leaders to find a negotiated settlement to the Ramjanmabhoomi-Babri Masjid [disputed shrine in Ayodhya] issue. Mr. Singh told PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] that religious sentiments of all communities will

be respected and he was confident of finding an amicable solution to the Ayodhya issue. Mr. Singh also said the state government would give higher priority to improving the law and order situation in the state.

Jayalalita Formally Elected AIADMK Leader

BK2106053491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Miss Jayalalita has been formally elected as the leader of the AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] legislature party. At a meeting held this morning in Madras, the AIADMK General Secretary, Miss Lalita, was the unanimous choice of the newly elected members. She did not participate in the meeting.

Eight Killed in West Bengal Post-Poll Violence

BK2106075991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] In West Bengal, eight persons have been killed in different parts of the state in the post-poll violence since Monday. Four people were killed at (Abda) and (Samkorial) in Howrah. Three others were killed in Darjeeling and Kurseong in North Bengal. About 30 people have been arrested in connection with these incidents. Of the eight killed three are reported to be supporters of the Congress-I and two of the CPI-M [Communist Party of India]. Political affiliation of the other three are yet to to be ascertained.

Iran

Mohtashemi Opposes Open Policy

PM2006141091 Paris LE MONDE in French 20 Jun 91 p 3

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi by Francoise Chipaux in Tehran; date not given]

[Text] Tehran—Tehran deputy Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi is one of the leaders of the radical faction in Iran. He makes no secret of the "different views" existing within the Islamic Republic. For this man, who is still young and who had his right forearm torn off and his left hand mutilated by a letter bomb when he was ambassador to Damascus, the struggle continues, and it is the revolution's achievements which he sees threatened by the open policy implemented by the Iranian Government. Although he refutes the term "fierce battle" to describe the confrontation between the "hardliners" and the "moderates" led by President Rafsanjani, he explained his view on these disagreements by saying: "For a long time, I have been one of those who say that we must strongly resist our enemies because it is by our resistance that we will be able to build a healthy society at home. The others think that we must live in the big world village with good political and economic relations with everyone, but that implies accepting international laws and regulations. However, we think that those laws are simply designed to enslave the Third World.... We think that American political will lies behind the United Nations."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi went even further. "I believe," he said, "that it is shameful to our Islamic states for American soldiers to move around the region safely, under the protection of those states. If our young people are fighting those soldiers in a few operations, even symbolic operations, in the Gulf—in the Persian Gulf, in Kuwait, in Bahrain—they will start to realize that they are not protected. If there is resistance creating a climate of insecurity, we can prevent the United States from exploiting this region. If we accept our Islamic duty, the enemy cannot resist us."

Mr. Mohtashemi even disputes the need for a "open policy" for the purposes of rebuilding, although he does not propose any alternative solution. "We survived for 10 years when we were surrounded. We managed to solve all our internal economic, industrial, and other problems without ever resorting to foreign countries. This shows that our people can build their economy. If we continue the open policy, we will fall into the same situation as Egypt. We will have an economy under U.S. domination. Here in Iran the open policy has already brought us serious economic problems—prices are constantly increasing. During the war and when we were surrounded, the people were better off than they are now."

Although he is totally opposed to any rapprochement with the United States, he has fewer reservations about Europe because, he said, "an alliance with the European countries having political independence could serve to counter the United States in the region." "The problem," he added however, "is that the United States exerts domination over the whole world and Europe is afraid of the United States, as are the Third World countries." Similarly, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi opposes any participation by Iran in any regional security agreement, because "any system imposed with the participation of reactionary states in the region will be under U.S. domination."

Is there nonetheless a chance of compromise between the two factions in the Iranian regime? "If our revolutionary goals can be achieved by compromise, we agree to it. If we can protect the Third World liberation movements and export Islam, why not?" Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi is trying to put into practice this desire to propagate Islam, which, as a moderate deputy in the Majles recent stressed, "ought not to mean the export of TNT," by travelling a great deal. In this connection, he expressed surprise that the media did not report his recent visit "to Algeria for 10 days" (before the recent events in that country) during which he said he "made contact with the forces fighting to wrest power from colonialism." He also visited Tunis to invite PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to a conference on Palestine to be held in Iran at the Majles' initiative. "The Palestinian question," he said, "must become a question directly linked to our internal problems in all Islamic states. In Iran, we

have proposed that special credit amounting to $20 million be included in the budget so that our people understand that this question is linked to Iranian interests, which is not the case at present."

Disputing the fact that Iranians now want a better standard of living and are weary of a revolution which, with the war, has bled the country dry, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohtashemi thinks instead that "any open policy is a step toward the plots" hatched by Iran's "enemies" and will have the effect of "stifling" his "people once again."

Final Installment of Khamene'i Hajj Message

LD2006160491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0950 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Third and final installment of message by Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, to hajj pilgrims on 18 June, the day of the "disavowal of the infidels"—read by announcer]

[Excerpts] Our Muslim brothers and sisters all over the world should know that a main part of the joint pressure of the East and the West exerted on Islamic Iran, before the imposed war, in the course of the war and after that, was aimed at realizing the futile dream that with the defeat of the Islamic Republic in Iran, the experience of the Islamic movement would appear as a failure in the eyes of the Muslims in other countries; and that the glimmer of hope brought about by the victory of the revolution in Iran would not encourage the others to concentrate their efforts along this holy path. Today too, the extensive propaganda of the arrogant mass media pursue the same objective by seeking to portray the Islamic revolution as being stagnant, harnessed and reaching an impasse in Iran, and the Islamic Republic system as having deviated from the line of the revolution and its great Imam [Khomeyni], may God be satisfied with his deeds, and [of being] conciliatory with the treacherous America. These are the same mouthpieces, which often during the life of the late Imam, may God sanctify his dust, impudently accused Islamic Iran of having links with Israel, of purchasing arms from and selling oil to it. Whereas Islamic Iran is the most serious enemy of the Zionist regime. Praise be to God that neither of the arrogant efforts, in action and propaganda, succeeded, and the glimmer of hope that the victory of the Islamic revolution and its firm and non-submitting stand had brought to the Islamic world and the hearts of the Muslims, performed its effectiveness. As a result in a number of the Islamic countries today it can be seen in the form of huge popular movements in search of Islamic governments.

I, as a sympathetic and experienced brother, however, deem it my duty to remind these nations and particularly their leaders, intellectuals and religious ulema of the following points:

First: along this path many dangers threaten the movement as the result of impatience or shortsightedness. Lay greater stress on the two factors of patience and farsightedness.

Second: the Islamic movement and the Islamic revolution mean rebellion against ignorant values and satanic regimes, which have chained mankind and are the cause of oppression, corruption, class and racial discrimination, fornication, suffering of the masses and other misfortunes with afflict nations and [the regimes which] have sacrificed everything for greater profit and stronger domination of those with power and wealth. A proper Islamic movement, therefore, means confrontation between two different systems with two different values and two different cultures, the culture of chaining mankind and the culture of liberating mankind. Every Islamic movement should, thus, prepare itself to resist all the mighty powers of the world and not to be taken by surprise.

Third: the enemy, by creating an adverse climate and by resorting to propaganda tricks, will try to make you wary of the name Islamic government and Islamic system. Perhaps some gullible individuals may think that it would be better for them to avoid mentioning the name Islamic government in their public speeches to refrain from making America and Western governments sensistive. My recommendation is to seriously avoid this expedient thinking, which is contrary to your interests. Do clearly and explicitly repeat the objective of setting up an Islamic System with the sovereignty of Islam and the Koran without any hesitation in any circumstances. Do not provoke the enemy's greed by refraining to state the sacred name of Islam. Avoid making the objective vague and covered in the dust of ambiguity.

Fourth: Islam and the Islamic movements have been harmed more by hypocrisy than by blatant blasphemy. Today the danger of American Islam, that is, where the name of Islam is employed to serve the interests of satans and objectives of America and other arrogant powers, is not less than the danger of America's military and political weapons; rather the danger is greater. Beware of the standard-bearers of American Islam, whether they are in the cloak of religious ulema or hold the Status of politicians. Expose them and the line they are pursuing in your speeches and hints, and never try to win their support.

Fifth: Do not remain uninformed of the experience gained by other Islamic movements in other countries and their present situation. Maintain contact with them despite the wishes of [global] arrogance.

Sixth: Always bear in mind the noble [Koranic] verse, which says: Hold tight all of you to the rope stretched by God and do not be dispersed. This is the verse that recommends you to rely on the faith and observe unity. Keep the two recommendations of this verse in front of your eyes and beware of the enemies trick in this connection.

Another issue in the world of Islam today is that of Iraq and the catastrophic and tragic situation of a nation in which, because of the ill-intentions and miscalculations of its rulers, in addition to being subjected to suppression and a police state and having had 10 years of unjust war with its neighbors forced on them, because of the stupid and ambitious ideas of its rulers, thousands upon thousands of its old and young men, women, and children have been killed, bereaved, maimed, or made homeless in bombings and destruction, and a large portion of its historical and national wealth has been destroyed. Now it is being directly threatened by those same rulers who were the cause of all those troubles and is being slaughtered, made homeless, and despondent by bombings and mass-destruction and chemical weapons.

When the Iraqi Army attacked and occupied Kuwait to satisfy the ambition and greed of the rulers of Iraq and gave America a ready-made excuse for an unprecedented military presence and naturally a cursed political and economic infiltration in the Persian Gulf region, and the region was set alight by both the Iraqi regime and the Western allies, some Muslims, mostly out of good intentions and concern, but a few out of calculated, evil intentions, persisted in proposing that the Islamic republic rush to the aid of the Ba'thist Iraqi regime and play a part in spreading the war. That view was, of course, contrary to obvious Islamic principles which deem a jihad necessary only for the sake of propagating God's religion, or defending oppressed nations, or defending Islamic governments; not for defending an invading, occupying, and power-seeking regime which possesses the Ba'th party's ideology that formally and in practice rejects and opposes religion and spiritualism; not a regime with a record of oppression, corruption, suppression, and genocide—the Iraqi regime enjoys a special status in that respect—particularly not a regime whose record of subservience and servitude to hegemonistic powers has been fully understood by the Iranians throughout the eight-year war it imposed on the Islamic system, a war that was started on the wishes of arrogance and fought with their all-around help and weapons. Islam does not consider defending such a regime as jihad and does not consider it permissible.

But some of those who made those proposals were taken in by the deceptive and opportunistic remarks of those responsible for the destruction of Iraq—those who, for a short time, to attract the attention of the simple-minded, were making false statements about Islam and religious holies—and some, admitting the malevolence, corruption and injustice of the heads of that regime, considered the defense of the Iraqi nation as their motive behind the proposal. We pointed out to them that helping the oppressed people of Iraq is necessary; but entering the war in favor of the Iraqi regime and strengthening the rule of that regime would not be helping the people of Iraq, but helping the antipopular regime of Iraq and an injustice against the people of Iraq on whom an unwanted war had been imposed by that cursed regime for 10 years.

Now that the Iraqi regime and Army have surrendered to and fled in disgrace from America and her Western allies and have accepted all the conditions of the arrogant, that regime has been able to establish itself for another unknown period as a prideless regime and a degraded power. In the meantime the people of Iraq, that oppressed nation who has for many years been a hostage to a rough, unjust, corrupt, and torturer regime, must now pay for the cost of defeat, degradation, and the inferiority complex of that regime, in addition to having had a war imposed on them which was the sole result of the greedy rulers—The same regime and army that could not fight for more than 100 hours against foreign enemies, who had come into their home, and not be afraid of death.

For more than 100 days the Iraqi regime has been attacking the Iraqi nation, wrecking houses, bombing cities, desecrating holy places, driving the people out of their homeland, arresting scholars and elders, torturing many, and slaughtering the nation. In the north against the Kurds and in the south the Iraqi regime has killed, beaten up, made homeless, and bereaved the Arabs, the extent of which has not been seen or imagined by any of the known criminals of recent times. They did things to the Iraqi people that nobody with a conscience would do to animals. The Kurds in northern Iraq are in a better position currently because of the disapproval and threats of America and Western governments. We will have to see what happens in the future. But the Shiites in the south who, for various reasons, are the subject of the despisement and grudge of America and her allies—the main reason for which is that they believe in Islam and wish to set up an Islamic government—are under constant threat and subjected to constant hardship and harm by the antipopular and genocidal regime of Iraq. [passage omitted]

The West, and particularly America, except for some brief and undetailed reports, have not helped at all. God and the Muslim masses are their only hope. They could aid them by at least objecting to such deeds.

The next issue concerns the state of Muslims in Kashmir. Taking advantage of the preoccupation of the Islamic world with the problems of recent months—a situation that has led us all to neglect the fate of those victimized and far away brothers—the Government of India has imposed as much pressure on them as it is able to. It has made their lives and properties, and even according to reports, their honor, the target of its aggression and plunder.

At this juncture I do not intend to pass a substantive judgement on the problem of Kashmir. Those in the know are well aware of the fact that the Kashmir problem is one of the old wounds which the colonialist English inflicted on the body of the subcontinent at the time of their forced departure from India; they did so to take their revenge upon the Muslims of grand India.

We say that in confronting the said problem the Government of India has resorted to violent and unsuitable instruments; and fully confident that the great powers and organizations allegedly defending human rights would not engage in any meaningful defense of the Muslims, it has resorted to inhuman methods.

Muslim nations must know that the Kashmiri Muslim expects them to defend him. It is the Islamic and fraternal duty of Muslims to do so. And if the Indian Government believes that it is possible to place such a large number of Muslims under pressure for ever without any reaction from world Muslims, it undoubtedly is making a mistake.

At this juncture it is necessary to make references to Muslim minorities in some countries, including European countries. Indeed, pressures brought to bear on Muslims who are willing to maintain their Islamic identity can expose the real nature of democracy and freedom of which the West continuously boasts. The obsessions which some European governments show toward the building of mosques or the establishment of Islamic associations, or observance of Islamic dress, and so forth—or obsessions which they entice among their people—must open the eyes of the Muslims to see the real stands of such governments with regard to Islam.

These are among the important issues about which the world's Muslims must think; these are issues from which the must also benefit in order to appreciate their duties in these times.

One of the important issues of our time is the issue of sectarian differences among the Muslims. Of course, that is not a new phenomenon; indeed, differences and quarrels, and at times fighting, on account of problems of faith and religion and sects have always existed since the first century of Islam. However, regarding that issue we say a new word; that is, following the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran, and the spread of its thought all over the Islamic world, in its confrontation with the ever spreading islamic wave, arrogance has adopted as one of its weapons, on the one hand, the ploy to hand the Islamic revolution of Iran as a Shiite movement in a sectarian sense and not as an Islamic movement in its general sense; and on the other hand it has made utmost efforts to bring about divisions and hostilities among the Shiites and Sunnis.

Aware of such a satanic conspiracy, since the beginning we have always insisted on the unity among all Islamic sects and as such we have tried to neutralize such provocation. Thank God, we have had ample achievements in this regard, the latest of which is the establishment of the Universal Assembly of Unification of Islamic Sects. At present, all over the world of Islam, the ulema, the intellectuals, the pacts and the writers, and the people in general from all Islamic sects are defending in unison and with one tongue the Islamic revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

which were prepared through the assistance extended to it already by America and the West—gave rise to a situation in this region which had bitter and painful consequences more or less known to everyone. Among these consequences are, firstly, that America has turned into the principle decisionmaker in an important part of this region and has frightened the governments of this region into submission. And this can be counted as a great threat to the Islamic identity and popular will existing in this region and in any other part in the world where such an event may occur. Today there is no hope other than our hopes in Islam and in the faithful and resolute people to confront this great threat.

And thanks be to God that today the shining sun of life-giving Islam is beating once again on the hearts and breaths of people; and that many Muslim nations are on their way to make Islam into a reality in their lives and have begun their struggle against those elements that distance people from God's religion. This is a joyous and hope-inspiring movement and it is this that will, through divine success, break the chains of the satanic hegemony of America and of any other rebellious power, thus rescuing everyone in the process. [Koranic verse omitted]

Nations and governments are equally responsible vis-a-vis mentalities and attitudes that are drawn to and rely on the pure Islam of Muhammad, God's peace and benedictions be upon him and his scion, and Islam whose main objective is to stop the great satan and the rest of the satans from influencing the lives of peoples. If Islamic governments are fond of their countries and nations, they should know that this is the factor which determines the lives, the honor, and independence of nations and countries as well as the power of governments.

I ask Almighty God to awaken all the Muslims of the world and grant them honor and glory and rescue them from the claws of arrogance. Let them be victorious in their confrontation with the enemies of God. Almighty God, let the rays of the Koran and Islam continue to shine over the hearts of Muslims and grant them your mercy and wisdom. [passage omitted on further prayers]

[Signed] 'Ali Hoseyni Khamene'i; 3d Thu al-Hijjah, 1411 h.q.; 26th Khordad 1370; 16d June 1991.

TEHRAN TIMES' Views on Hostages Decried

NC2006180891 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
15 Jun 91 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "All Quiet on the Western Front"]

[Text] In its latest joyful! and pro-Western! forecast, the TEHRAN TIMES has reported that two American hostages will be released imminently by Lebanese groups solely for humanitarian reasons. For his part, the White House spokesman (a regular subscriber to this newspaper) welcomed the news and expressed the hope that the newspaper's report becomes a reality. Regardless of the truth of this claim, what is noteworthy here is the indifference shown by officials at this newspaper to the just aspirations and rights of the oppressed people.

The TEHRAN TIMES should have paid due attention to the fact that a move is humanitarian if it is, first and foremost, aimed at securing the rights of the oppressed and removing the sources of their oppression. The Lebanese nation is the embodiment of an oppressed nation, suffering under the shadow of aggression from the regime occupying Jerusalem and bearing deep wounds inflicted by the criminal Zionists.

Where have these humanitarian gentlemen, who were deaf during the Sabra and Shatila massacres, come from, so the TEHRAN TIMES is now eagerly beating its chest about the release of hostages taken from the mentors of the Zionist regime?

Officials at this newspaper must give due attention to the fact that hostage taking in Lebanon was the natural reaction of revolutionary organizations to the crimes perpetrated by Zionism and its Western mentors. As long as the Westerners do not halt their support for the Zionists and exert the necessary pressure to make Israel, over which they have great influence, respect the just rights of the Muslim nations of Lebanon and Palestine and end its permanment aggression against and hegemony over Muslims in the region, all predictions about the release of hostages by Muslim groups will be in vain. In contrast, the West has always asked Iran to use its moral influence with the Lebanese Muslim, while some U.S. congressmen have recently called for maintaining economic sanctions against Iran and supporting mercenary groups and the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization]. Within this context, President Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani clearly stated in a recent interview: These issues (the release of Western hostages) concerns the Lebanese, the Americans, the British, and the Israelis, and they want to exploit the issue politically. How can the TEHRAN TIMES explain these contradictions?

The TEHRAN TIMES should know that the West's problem in the region is not one of hostages and their release. It has always tried to use this issue as a political weapon to bring rebellious Islam to its senses?!, to dilute this type of Islam, and to make it more amenable to compromise so that it can achieve its objectives.

It would be a good idea, therefore, for the TEHRAN TIMES to review its editorial policy and shift its focus from the West to the oppressed of the region. All is quiet on the Western front, but only those pens that write in favor of the oppressed and the fulfillment of their just rights and those who seek to end oppression are worthy of respect and praise.

Goals Behind U.S. Arms Control Proposal Viewed

NC2106054191 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 16 Jun 91 p 2

[Unattributed editorial: "U.S. Goals Behind the M.E. Arms Embargo"]

[Text] The flow of advanced arms from the U.S. to Israel is continuing and the American officials are eagerly after taking advantage of the chaotic situation in the region for selling their weapons to the Arab states. [sentence as published] Under this condition the U.S. President George Bush has called for arms control in the Middle East and urged the main suppliers of offensive arms to cooperate.

Some may not take this plan seriously at first sight. They may regard it as just a political maneuver to cover up Washington's militarism in the region. But an all-out study of the issue reveals that it is a "multi-purpose plan" and that the Washington officials follow certain objectives behind it.

The plan is in fact one of the main pillars of the Middle East branch of the 'New World Order' pursuing the following goals:

—To cut short the hands of Washington's rivals in the arms race in the region.

—To pressure the Arab states and specifically the countries not coordinated with the U.S. policies.

—To change the political-military balance in favor of Israel.

—To establish a suitable filter for arms shipment to the region and check the region's arms inventory, and

—To stabilize America's military position in the region through setting up arsenals in the region.

Evidences show that by raising this plan, Washington intends to maintain the 'initiative' in the political-military scene of the region, which it temporarily held in the aftermath of the 'oil war'. The aim is the elimination of its rivals from the region's political-military scene.

With the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, East European states, and the Eastern bloc in general, are eager to find new markets for their weapons. Hitherto the main customers of the Eastern bloc have been Arab states, particularly those which have not been toing the U.S. line. Thus, Washington by raising this issue is going to delelte them from the list of its rivals in the regional arms market and at the same time prevent the Arab countries from gaining access to the weapons they need. In other words it can change the arms balance in favor of Israel.

Moreover, the chain crises in the Soviet Union may force Moscow to ship its latest arms products to the Middle East in order to earn more dollars. However, such a plan would take away the traditional markets of the Soviet Union. In the meantime, the elimination of Europe from the arms sale competitions is a top priority for Washington.

All these possibilities, however serious, do not reveal Washington's major and urgent goal. What is the main, serious and urgent objective of Washington that has prompted American authorities to make such a huge political and propaganda investment?

Over the past few decades, the Middle East as an active trouble spot has shown unsatiated thirst for absorbing Western and Eastern military products. Has Washington decided to ignore such a market?

All existing evidences indicate that not only does the U.S. not favor a full halt to the inflow of arms to the region but rather it is after materializing certain goals in order to better pursue its policies.

Washington's major policy is to stimulate the appetite of the countries of the region to purchase more arms and fast and to set off a short-term arms buy-up hysteria among the regional countries before arms embargo or arms limitation is enforced.

Washington's welcome to the French proposal about a conference on arms control in the Middle East finds its true meaning against this background. If the Arabs feel they have a limited opportunity to snap up weapons they can with their cash and quick purchases solve many financial problems of Washington in the short term.

Above all, Washington is willing to undermine the military capacity of Arab states in a bid to minimize the likelihood of a serious military confrontation with Israel. If such a policy is seriously accepted and implemented, it means giving the West and the U.S. in particular a right to choose the types of arms Arab countries should possess. So, the U.S. will be able to control the inventory of arms possessed by the countries standing against Israel, even if they might not be so serious in their struggle.

There is no doubt that if the U.S. thinks it can get a monopoly on the arms markets in the region while at the same time control the Arab states arms inventory it will never hesitate to do so. From now on, if the Arab reaction expresses concern about its security, the U.S. will have better opportunities to set up bases and stockpile arms under the pretext of safeguarding the security of the friendly Arab states. This is a disgrace for the Arabs and regional countries but has been a permanent target for Washington.

* RESALAT Reports 23 Apr Majles Session

91AS0895A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Apr 91 p 5

[Excerpts]

Report On Yesterday's Open Session Of The Majles

Legislative and parliamentary division. The open session of the Majles was held yesterday morning with Hojjat ol-Eslam Karrubi presiding.

In this session, following the statements of the representatives of Bokan, Qom, Arak and Langerud, the draft bill to amend the law for the election of the Islamic councils was discussed and ratified.

Ahmad Taha, The Representative Of The People Of Bokan

How ugly and sinister is a government whose people flee into exile because of its oppression and injustice.

The first pre-agenda speaker of the open session of the Majles yesterday was Ahmad Taha, from Bokan.

Referring to the dire situation of the Iraqi refugees, he said:

A human tragedy equivalent to [all tragedies in] the history has occurred throughout Iraq.

[Passage omitted on plight of Kurdish people, Labor Day, Teachers' Day]

In conclusion, he made reminders to the Ministry of Mines and Metals concerning expediting the continuation of discovery operations and the operation of the aluminum mine of Bokan, to the head of the physical education agency about the building of a covered athletic hall for the city of Bokan and creating sufficient athletic facilities in that city, and to the Ministry of Roads and Transports concerning the establishment of the office of roads in the city of Bokan and the construction of intercity roads.

He also invited the head of the Shahid [Martyr] Foundation to visit his constituency and requested that the Ministry of Health, Treatment and Medical Education attend to the health and treatment problems of his constituency.

Sadeq Khalkhali, The Representative Of Qom

The representatives should decide about the interpellation of Dr. Najafi with full awareness and vote without any fear.

[Passage on remarks of Deputy Khalkhali omitted here, appeared in the Near East and South Asia Daily Report, 24 Apr 91, pp 31-32]

Hasan al-Hoseyni, The Representative Of Arak

The third pre-agenda speaker was Seyyed Hasan al-Hoseyni, the representative of Arak, who in a speech demanded an open position and the resistance of the Islamic government against the plan to create a security zone in northern Iraq.

In another part of his speech, he referred to the educational system and said: The oppressed and downtrodden strata of educators only hear that the Majles has taken major steps in connection with housing, loans and salaries; but in practice nothing has materialized, and despite all these details, they have their eyes on the Majles. The main body of educators in the existing educational situation is seriously concerned. It is afraid of the consequences of the trend of the cultural atmosphere in the society and sees that our interested students are caught in improper directions. Now it awaits a step of deliverance so that it witnesses again the establishment of Islamic values. They are waiting to be free of poor administration and for the education officials to consider competence and piety as touchstones in practice. Those who are directly confronting various problems concerning values and practices want the publication of the report of the inquiry and investigation, which is a solid document of the highest supervisory organization. A ray of hope has appeared in their hearts, which are full of love and compassion, and they are awaiting the next steps of the officials of the regime.

In connection with the interpellation of the minister of education, without addressing any specific person, he pointed out: They consider it improper and a deviation to speak of any obstacle with regard to the interpellation and any effort to cleanse the person to be interpellated, on whom all eyes are focussed. Hence, we must not provide a situation for creating such an atmosphere. If this task is truly the right of the Majles, then why all this expression of sorrow, mobilizing the parliamentary deputies and ministers, broadcasting the lack of competence and being shocked? Let the Majles carry out its duty in a sound political atmosphere, decide and resolve the shortcomings. Do not stick a cog in the wheel, because it will be to your own detriment as well. The problems of various strata must be solved. As representatives of the Majles, we are responsible. We cannot sit by and witness the disorder, evil and deviations.

Al-Hoseyni made these statements less than 24 hours after the visit of the minister and officials of education with the president. In this meeting, the president, clearly stating that interpellation is the right of the Majles, expressed his disappointment over the proposal to interpellate Dr. Najafi and announced: This issue may weaken the morale of the administrators in that ministry.

In another part of his speech, al-Hoseyni said:

The grand leader of the revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i, warned us, the government and the nation, that the United States is still a plunderer, and we will never have normal relations with a regime that raises Islamic values [to attack them]. This is an inspiration to us to be watchful and pay careful attention to our foreign policy and foreign position taking, so as not to fall into the trap of the conspiracies of the oppressors. It is certain that foreign governments will not solve any of our problems, whether they be external or political and social problems. It is the people, if we rely on them, who are the source of power rather than foreign governments. That is how we

can advance the revolution successfully and dynamically and achieve the lofty goals and ideals of the revolution.

Parviz Seyqali, The Representative Of The People Of Langerud

Parviz Seyqali-Kumleh, from Langerud, was the fourth and final pre-agenda speaker.

He said: The enemies of Islam, with their very strong propaganda organizations, try on a global level to inculcate in the Muslim people of Iran and the Muslims of the world that there are three factions in Iran, radicals, moderates and liberals, and every day they insist on spreading such sinister, disuniting trilateral propaganda.

The Western news system was the broadcaster of this colonialist, anti-Islamic Republic thesis. In the first days, our imam responded to it seriously and issued the message of the brotherhood charter. At that time, the depth of the conspiracy was not quite clear, and the message of the imam cast light on it. But gradually, as time went by, the needs of the officials and the people for the instructions of the imam became more clear, once our imam, the grand leader, took a clear position on the issue of the unity of the word and the unity of Muslims. But the conspiracy increased in the cultural direction, and in striking out against the Islamic revolutionary movement, it went a step further and spread the interpretations of the fundamentalists, the realists and those who lean towards the West. Of course, they tried to design the course of the movement such that the meaning of terms would be interpreted in accordance with their own colonialist culture, and parallel to it. In the economic dimensions, they justify the same sinister triangle of separation into the economic ascetics, economic rationalists and open-door economics. And now they have put all their efforts into the political dimensions of extremists, moderates and factionalists. They have not even stopped at this as their last word, but, considering their propaganda of several years and the thousands of slanderous statements and lies they have ascribed to the officials of the three branches and the high officials of the country, have accused everyone in some way. From the mouths of global oppressors it is heard that the factions inside Iran are the opponents of the government, supporters of the government, and supporters of government's leaning to the West . None of these statements and superficial analyses of the West is a source of concern, and we cannot expect anything less from them; however, sometimes the same words and analyses are heard coming from friends, which is most unfortunate, lest, God forbid, one day we become the loudspeakers of the enemy. It is obligatory for us all to preserve our unity and commitment more than ever before and to neutralize the disunity of the sinister triangle that they have created.

In continuation, he expressed his congratulations on Labor Day and Teachers' Day, and said: On such historical days, on the occasion honoring teachers, which is the profession of prophets, we are under circumstances that coincide with the interpellation of the honorable minister of education. Honoring or Interpellation at this time are improper. Of course, it is the right of the representatives who do so, and I have had no doubt about that. If we look at the past and examine the actions of both sides impartially, and look deeply at the conflicts of the past and the thousands of problems in the ministries, the Majles and especially the education committee, after three years, nothing has been achieved but to compromise the culture of the country and the education of the students and to waste each other's time. If only we had not had the position taken on the first day, not giving a vote of confidence to Mr. Akrami in the Cabinet of the serving government of Engineer Musavi; if only we had not had the hostile position taken by some toward Dr. Najafi after the vote of confidence of the Majles in the Cabinet of Engineer Musavi; if only we had not had the opposing positions and slander after the vote of confidence in the Cabinet of Mr. Hashemi; if only we had not had the serious conflict between some of the members of the committee inside the education committee against Dr. Najafi; if only we had not had the creation of chaos inside the ministry; and if only we had not had the frequent dismissals and appointments in the ministry; if not because of all of the above and so much more that counting all of them would take volumes, then some conspiratorial people could not have spread the seeds of enmity and have pitted both sides against each other in such a way that today the seeds of disunity have come to fruition, and in the week honoring the high status of teachers, there is time for harvesting, and the fruit is very bitter, and the students and teachers of this country will inevitably be harmed because of it.

In the week honoring the lofty status of teacher, we witness so many problems, if all the cases, in addition to those involving solutions for the problems of education, including providing manpower, the situation of the budget and the administration, legislation to resolve the problems of educators, and hundreds of other issues were discussed behind closed doors and were presented in complete trust, with the members describing each other with divine attributes, then the sweetness of the blessed fruit of the cultural revolution on the sacred day of 12 Ordibehesht [2 May], coinciding with the martyrdom of the learned teacher, would have been tasted by the teachers. I do not care that that the honorable representatives of the Majles will again give a vote of confidence. It is unimportant to me that afterwards Dr. Najafi will be stronger than ever and will be aware of his weaknesses and try to make up for them. I am only sorry that education has lost the faithful specialized forces and has wasted time, energy and resources in order to reject one another, and that education has been inflicted with a deadly wound, which will require a long time to heal.

He then spoke about the problems of his constituency and made reminders to the president and the Economic Council about the increase in the price of green leaf tea and the wages for drying it.

Addressing the minister of energy, he said: Thousands of hectares of land north of Langerud and Lahijan, along with populated villages, are under flood waters four months out of every year. At the present time, water is more than one meter high over farmland, and the rice farmers are unable to plant rice.

The farmers ask you to solve their problems.

[Passage omitted on ratification of laws]

Majles Notes

The legislative bill to attach articles to the law for the election of the Islamic councils, which was ratified yesterday, states that the central committee will supervise all the stages of the elections, and its opinion concerning the nullification or stopping of the elections shall be decisive and must be implemented. No other authority or official but the central supervisory committee shall have the right to cancel or stop the elections.

(The central supervisory committee for the national election of councils, in accordance with the law, shall be comprised of five representatives elected by the Majles.)

Karim Shafe'i, the representative of Marand, said in opposition to this bill: When we review the form and method of supervision of the honorable Council of Guardians in the elections of the president and the honorable representatives of the Majles, we see one form of supervision, whereas supervision is proposed in another manner in this proposal. This proposal states that the central supervisory committee can stop or cancel the elections. Is this supervision or interference in implementation? If it is supervision, then we must accept the same method in connection with the Council of Guardians. In the proposal to amend the law on the elections of the Majles which created so much noise, one of the main reasons was the supervision of the Council of Guardians. One side claimed that the Council of Guardians will interfere, whereas it must only supervise, and, for that matter, argued about the type of supervision that they wanted, especially since many of the signatories of the bill to amend the law of the Majles elections have signed this bill of (attaching articles to the law on elections of councils) too.

Seyyed Hoseyn Musavi-Tabrizi, the representative of Tabriz, responded to the representative of Marand and said: When you say that this is interference and not supervision, look at the law of the supervision of the Council of Guardians, this is taken word-for-word from it. Supervision means that we see whether or not these elections have been carried out properly. If they have been improper, they must be stopped. If they are proper, it should be endorsed. To affirm the correctness of the elections or cancel them is not considered interfering in the elections. Interference means that they do everything, interfere in voting and in the tasks of the Ministry of Interior. That is called interference. Am I right or wrong? This right, in accordance with the Constitution, belongs to the Council of Guardians. How can one say such a thing? Which signatory has verified that the Council of Guardians cannot say the elections of one area or another are proper or improper? It is in fact, its right. This is what supervision means.

Simultaneous with the examination of the draft bill to amend the articles of the law of the Majles, the speaker of the Majles made a proposal to amend Article 29 (requirements for candidacy for representative) as follows:

1. Belief in and practical commitment to Islam.

Note: What is meant by practical commitment to Islam is carrying out the religious mandates and not committing what is forbidden.

2. Belief in and practical commitment to the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

3. Expression of loyalty to the Constitution.

Elyas Hazrati, the representative of Rasht, said to our reporter: Although I signed the draft bill to amend the Majles election law, this does not imply endorsement of all the statements contained in it. He continued: I proposed that the requirements for those to be elected to be as follows: (1) citizenship of the Islamic Republic of Iran, (2) belief in and practical commitment to Islam, (3) belief in and practical commitment to the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran, (4) holding at least a high school diploma or its equivalent from a seminary.

Sadeq Khalkhali, the representative of Qom, in his pre-agenda speech yesterday, considering that the press quoting the educators had termed the interpellation of the minister of education unfair, called the statements of the press nonsense and said: Nothing important has happened for us to be upset.

Yesterday, outside the Majles, a cloth scroll approximately three meters in length with the signatures of the people of the power station of the city of Qom was placed in view of the representatives. The scroll addressed the leader, the president and the speaker of the Majles as follows:

We, the oppressed and downtrodden people of the Qom power station region, comprise about one-third of the population of the city, yet, unfortunately, we do not have the basic, essential resources, such as hospitals, parks, athletic clubs, and so on, which are necessary for every neighborhood and region. A plot of land exists, about 70,000 square meters, located at Imam Hoseyn Square and 'Aliabad Sa'degan Street, which in the comprehensive plan for the city is set aside for the building of a cultural and athletic complex. Unfortunately, some of the real estate dealers and land devourers are trying to take personal advantage of the land and are not allowing this plan (the creation of the cultural and athletic complex) to be implemented in that area.

Hence we, the oppressed residents who have no other supporter but the grand leader and the beloved officials

of the revolution, request the issue to be followed up and the hands of the profiteers and opportunists stopped from this issue.

Reportage on Va'ezi Visit to France

WA2006162291

For reportage on the visit by Mahmud Va'ezi, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Euro-American Affairs, to France, including reports on his talks with the secretary-general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, please see the France section of the 19 June West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Nepal

Nepali Congress, Communists Bidding for Posts

BK2006170291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1657 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Kathmandu, June 20 (AFP)—Nepal's first Parliament in 31 years met briefly Thursday after Interim Speaker Khalil Miya administered the oath of office to members of the legislature.

After bringing the house to order, Mr. Miya announced procedures for electing the speaker and deputy speaker on Sunday and then adjourned the legislature until then.

The ruling Nepal Congress is determined to fill both spots, while the opposition Nepali Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) is negotiating for the deputy speakership.

"There is no question of compromise for such a vital Parliamentary post," a congress source said.

Nepal's first Parliament was dissolved by the late King Mahendra, the father of the present king, in 1960. He then introduced the partyless Panchayat system of government which was ended by King Birendra last year after weeks of protests.

Pakistan

Bomb Blast in Train Kills 5, Injures 30

BK2006071291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0704 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Islamabad, June 20 (AFP)—A powerful bomb exploded in a passenger train Thursday and first reports said at least five people were killed and 30 injured, railway sources said.

The device exploded in a packed compartment of the stationary train at Wazirabad, 200 kms (120 miles) southeast of Islamabad.

The train was waiting for the signal to depart for Punjab's industrial city of Faisalabad, the official ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) said.

The blast shook the entire surrounding area at Wazirabad, which is on the main line linking Karachi with Islamabad. APP said the train compartment was completely wrecked.

No arrest was reported and the authorities have started investigations.

No one had immediately claimed responsibility for the blast, which came amid a wave of violent incidents in the country.

Eight Said Killed, 17 Injured in Border Firing

BK2006140691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1338 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] Muzaffarabad, Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, June 20 (AFP)—Eight people, including a Pakistan Army major, were killed and 17 injured Thursday when Indian Army soldiers shelled a border town, witnesses said.

The attack on Chokothy, some 60 kilometers (37 miles) east of here, took place at sunrise, they said, when shells landed in the town's main bazaar.

Officials here confirmed the shelling but declined to give casualty figures in Chokothy, which is close to the line that divides the disputed Himalayan state between India and Pakistan.

The officials said the Pakistani Army did not return fire.

Meanwhile, thousands of people rallied here to express their support for Kashmiri Muslims who are waging a separatist campaign across the border in the Indian-controlled part of the valley.

The rally was organised by the nationalist Jammu Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), one of the main rebel groups in Indian-held Kashmir. Speakers, demanding postponment of elections scheduled later this month, called for the establishment of a national government.

Both Pakistan and India claim sovereignty over the valley and have fought two of their three wars since independence in 1947 over Kashmir.

New Delhi has accused Islamabad of training and arming Muslim militants in its part of the valley. Pakistan has denied the charge, but upholds the right of Kashmiris to self-determination.

Opposition Protests as Sindh Arrests Continue

BK2006160491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] In the campaign against antisocial elements in Sindh, the police have arrested 206 more suspected people who are involved in various crimes. ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN quoting official sources

in Karachi said that with this, the number of arrested people in the province during the last 48 hours has risen to 851.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1420 GMT on 20 June carries the following Karachi-datelined report: "Opposition leaders and government partners of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif Thursday slammed the mass arrest of political activists in Sindh Province in the aftermath of Tuesday's murder of a judge here.

Chief minister of Sindh Province, Jam Sadiq Ali, had blamed former Premier Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) for the assassination of Judge Nabi Sher Junejo.

According to officials here, more than 750 people, mostly bandits and hardened criminals, have been arrested throughout Sindh following the murder of Mr. Junejo, who headed a special anti-terrorist court where Ms. Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari was defending himself in six cases.

Neither the parties nor the police have released the names of detainees or their political affiliation.

The PPP has said the detained people were mostly members of its youth wing.

The Sindh Government is using Mr. Junejo's murder to "victimise" political opponents, especially the members of PPP, Nisar Khuro, opposition deputy leader in the provincial legislature, said.

Senator Qazi Hussain Ahmed, chief of the fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami, which is a component of ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IJI), also criticised the government for arresting activists of his party's youth wing, press reports said.

Another opposition group Pakistan National Party (PNP) has also criticised the government for singling out opposition parties for the arrests."]

Sharif Stresses Restoration of Law, Order

BK2106113191 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 20 Jun 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has said restoration of law and order in Sindh will be the top priority of his government. He was talking to newsmen at Lahore airport on arrival from Islamabad today. He said a high-level meeting has been convened in Islamabad tomorrow which would also be attended by the governor of Sindh, Mr. Mahmud A. Haroon, and Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali. It would discuss matters relating to law and order situation in Sindh.

The prime minister said the federal cabinet had approved three ordinances yesterday to check terrorism and to organize a crackdown on Kalashnikov culture and to ensure peace in all regions of the country. Mr. Nawaz Sharif referred to the economic program and investment policy of the government and said their full benefit, including the award of the National Finance Commission, would not be possible unless complete law and order was restored in Karachi and elsewhere. The government would ensure complete law and order both in the cities as well as in the interior of Sindh.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif described the killing of a judge by terrorists in Karachi as a very disturbing event. He said this murder should be an eye-opener for all law enforcing agencies both of the province and the federal government. He said he did not agree with the concept that maintenance of law and order was a provincial matter. Apart from the provinces, it was also the responsibility of the state and ultimately of the prime minister himself. He was sure that the situation would improve very soon.

Sri Lanka

Rebel Stronghold Captured by Security Forces

BK2006123091 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1115 GMT 20 Jun 91

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 20 (LANKAPUVATH)—The security forces captured another LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] stronghold Wednesday, when they took the strategic junction town of Paraiyanakulam, 35 kilometres west of Vavuniya after fierce fighting, cutting off the main terrorist supply route between Vavuniya and Mannar. Paraiyanakulam is the junction at which the A-30 Highway from Vavuniya joins the 115 kilometre long Talaimannar- Medawachchiya Highway. It was under LTTE control until Wednesday. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the LTTE suffered heavy losses. Fifty two terrorists were confirmed killed in the fighting which began at dawn and ended in the afternoon. The security forces lost three soldiers.

The sources said 172 LTTE cadres and 27 soldiers had died in the fighting since the security forces launched the current offensive against the LTTE moving west from Vavuniya last Friday. The security forces have lost 27 killed. Ground troops backed by air cover moved out of Pandisurichchan where they had spent a day consolidating their positions, and began a 15 kilometre thrust Wednesday morning, to get to Paraiyanakulam. Official sources said troops met with heavy resistance. Sri Lankan Air Force pilots flying over the battlefield Wednesday afternoon reported seeing the bodies of 35-40 dead terrorists, while ground troops recovered the bodies of 12 terrorists and disposed of them. Air force planes destroyed three vehicles and five houses which the terrorists had converted into firing positions. Troops also destroyed a network of terrorist bunkers and other fortifications in capturing Paraiyanakulam, official sources said. Official sources said the LTTE had bought in reinforcements from Jaffna, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi, earlier this week. Two of these groups were wiped out in Monday's fighting at

Pandisurichchan. Curfews are still in force in the Vavuniya (except in the town and the South Sinhala Division), Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi.

'Powerful Blast' Rocks Colombo

BK2106052491 Hong Kong AFP in English 0511 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Colombo, June 21 (AFP)—A powerful blast rocked the Sri Lankan capital Colombo Friday, residents said.

The blast was heard in the busy commercial and residential area of Kollupitiya but it was not immediately clear what caused it or if there were any casualties.

Residents saw fire engines on the street. The local telephone system was jammed immediately after the blast.

A police official here said several cars had caught fire but he could not give further details. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Residents in Nawala and Dehiwala, both within 10 kilometers (six miles) of Kollupitiya, said their houses were shaken by the blast.

On March 2 suspected Tamil tiger guerrillas set off a car bomb in Colombo, killing state defence minister Ranjan Wijeratne and 18 other people.

The dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), is known to have carried out several bomb attacks here since 1986.

Car Bomb Explosion Damages Military Headquarters

BK2106064691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0638 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Colombo June 21 (AFP)—A powerful car bomb went off outside the main military headquarters in the Sri Lankan capital here Friday, killing at least eight people and wounding scores of others, witnesses said.

An AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE photographer at the scene said he saw eight charred bodies outside the joint operations headquarters in the Kollupitiya District of Colombo.

At least 50 vehicles and several houses in the area and the military facility itself were badly damaged, Photographer Sena Vidanagama said, adding that the blast caused a huge crater big enough to bury an elephant.

Witnesses said the operational headquarters located in two buildings on either side of the tree-lined flower road took the full impact of the blast. Bodies were being taken out from the upper floors of a three-story block.

The state radio interrupted a regular program to announce the bomb attack and appeal for calm nearly two hours after the explosion.

The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) said there were no casualties among children attending three schools near the military facility. The radio urged people to remain calm and did not give any casualty figures or any other details.

The attack was similar to the March 2 car bomb blast here which killed state Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne and 18 others.

The government blamed that attack on the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which has been accused of bomb attacks in the capital since 1986.

About 50 Killed, 200 Injured in Bomb Explosion

BK2106081291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0807 GMT 21 Jun 91

[Text] Colombo, June 21 (AFP)—Some "40 to 50" people, including military personnel, were killed and nearly 200 wounded in a powerful car bomb attack on Sri Lanka's main military headquarters here Friday, officials said.

"I have sent over 200 wounded people to hospital," a doctor told reporters at the scene. A government official said "40 to 50" people were killed and identification was difficult because they had been charred.

Both government and opposition politicians said they believed nearly 100 may have perished.

Suicide Bomber Driver Believed To Be LTTE

BK2106083691 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0707 GMT 21 Jun 91

["Oana/Pool Item"]

[Text] Colombo, 21 June (LANKAPUVATH)—A powerful high velocity bomb exploded outside the operational headquarters (JOC) [Joint Operations Command] of the Ministry of Defence at Flower Road in Colombo-7 this morning, killing and seriously wounding a number of persons, including security personnel and badly damaging buildings in the vicinity, including the JOC.

First reports stated that a number of persons were feared seriously wounded or dead in the blast, which was about twice the velocity than the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] bomb which killed the late Minister of State for Defence General Ranjan Wijeratne in March this year.

The bomb was inside a car driven by a suicide bomber believed to be of the LTTE which tried to ram the main gate of the operational headquarters of the Ministry of Defence. It was stopped by an army sentry and was about to be checked when the bomb exploded.

Six children inside a van parked by the ladies college which adjoins the JOC were seriously wounded. The van was a charred wreck.

Ambulances which were rushed to the scene of the tragedy took the wounded to the General Hospital, Colombo, two kilometres away. The blast was heard as far as 15 kilometres from [the] scene of the explosion.

The Colombo and suburban telephone line were jammed.

Among the other buildings badly damaged by the blast was the Yugoslav Embassy.